Daily Report

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FBIS-NES-90-214 *5 November 1990*

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Algeria

President, 'Arafat Discuss Palestinian Issues

LD0411192790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid had talks at the presidential office today with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

According to a statement issued by the presidential office, the discussions covered the latest developments in the occupied territories resulting from the Israelis' repressive measures, particularly in Gaza. Regarding this, the president stressed the need for the United Nations to adopt all necessary measures to protect the Palestinians and activate the peace resolutions on the right of the Palestinian people to independence and the establishment of an independent, free state of their own.

The statement pointed out that, in regard to the Gulf situation, Presidents Bendjedid and 'Arafat discussed the various efforts exerted in the Maghreb, as well as in the Arab and international fields, with the parties concerned in the search for a diplomatic solution of the crisis.

President 'Arafat arrived in Algeria at noon today.

Ghazali Criticizes UNSC Policy on Gulf Crisis

LD0411141090 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The National People's Assembly today resumed its fall session. A number of draft laws are under examination, and are led by the examination of the country's foreign policies. More details with Bariza Benrazzak from the house of parliament:

[Benrazzak] The National People's Assembly today resumed the fall session, which was suspended on 16 October, by examining the country's foreign policies, a matter which needs, as Sid Ahmed Ghazali asserted before the deputies, an examination of today's main changes in international relations and the people's participation and evaluation, through their deputies, of the country's foreign policy.

After dealing with the main principles of Algerian foreign policy, the foreign minister dealt with Algeria's stance, which is based upon the independence of its decisionmaking toward all current international topics and problems, a stance which is reflected in its support of foreign countries' struggle and noninterference in other countries' internal affairs. [passage omitted]

The current Gulf crisis and Algeria's stance toward it was the most detailed part in the foreign minister's report on the country's foreign policy. Mr. Ghazali reiterated, in front of the deputies, Algeria's stance toward this crisis and how to resolve it, a stance which rejects the use of force to resolve pending problems, as well as all forms of foreign interference in Arab affairs. Mr. Ghazali said in this respect that Algeria does not consider the Gulf crisis as merely a problem of invasion but rather a development which has links with the Palestinian problem, the difficult problem of Arab solidarity, and the march of Arab unity. Mr. Ahmed Ghazali stressed the need to link the Gulf crisis to the Palestinian problem and criticized the UN Security Council's disgraceful resolutions dealing with what has been taking place [in the Arab occupied territories]. [passage omitted]

FIS Leader Criticizes Government Proposals

LD0211232990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The Islamic National Salvation Front [FIS] organized today in Constantine a rally which Shaykh Abbasi Madani addressed. Radio correspondent Rabah Ben Mili realized a change in the style of the address of the FIS leader. Here is a report about the issue:

[Rabah Ben Mili] FIS leader Shaykh Abbasi Madani, who this afternoon attended a huge public rally in Ben Abdelmalek playgrounds in Constantine within the celebrations commemorating the glorious November revolution, changed the style of his political talk and looked more rigid in his address on the occasion.

After strongly criticizing television programs making and recalling the difficulties faced by those locally elected in the Islamic municipalities, which he considered a policy for freezing the municipalities and provinces, Shaykh Abbasi Madani stated there was no more scope for the language of leniency and patience, and that President Chadli Bendjedid's statement about postponing the coming legislative elections if there was no social peace was an obstruction to establishing the Islamic state.

Moreover, the FIS leader called for jihad if there was any procrastination in holding these elections. He said that this year would witness the establishment of the Koran state.

On the other hand, Shaykh Abbasi Madani criticized the unity or alliance proposals, hinting at the proposals of the Guidance and Reform Society by Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah, and considered them as unacceptable slogans in the arena. He said: FIS does not accept the unity of papers, and anyone who wants unity should join our ranks for the sake of establishing the Islamic state.

The radical change in the address of the FIS leader, as you can see, presents a number of questions about the dimensions of this new tendency under the current circumstances. Is it a swift and violent reaction to the criticisms to FIS, or is it a strong comeback to the political arena before the legislative elections? Anyway, the changes on the political map during the coming months will undoubtedly present convincing and practical answers about Shaykh Abbasi Madani's aims in this statement.

Egypt

Mitterrand Visits for University Inauguration

Arrives in Alexandria

NC0311220690 Paris AFP in English 2201 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Alexandria, Egypt, Nov 3 (AFP)—French President Francois Mitterrand arrived here late Saturday [3 November] for the inauguration Sunday of the first French-speaking international university, Senghor University, a reliable source said.

But the president did not attend a reception Saturday evening hosted by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak at his summer residence for 170 guests, including Senegal President Abdou Diouf and Zaire leader Mobutu Sese Seko, as well as Prince Philippe of Belgium.

Before flying to Alexandria, Mr. Mitterrand made a private 24-hour stay at St. Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai.

The French president is to have a working breakfast Sunday with Mr. Mubarak, before the inauguration.

Meets With Mubarak

NC0411082290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received French President Francois Mitterrand at the Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria this morning. They held a session of talks that continued at a working breakfast Mubarak hosted in honor of the French president. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the Gulf region and ways of bolstering bilateral relations.

Talks With Mubarak Reported

JN0411172490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo]

[Text] Well-informed Egyptian sources have told our radio that the political talks between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and French President Francois Mitterrand at noon today dealt with a framework of solutions that are suitable and acceptable to all parties concerned in the Gulf crisis. They also discussed Soviet peace efforts and assessed the European stand on the crisis.

Our information confirms that the French president said he agrees to a specific period of time after which the military option will be used to settle the crisis. Several demands were put as conditions for this. First, the need for Iraq to release unconditionally all foreign nationals and to implement all international and humanitarian resolutions and norms on the treatment of these nationals until they are released. Second, one should not be satisfied only with Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy to it, but it is essential to reach complete understanding on all the security measures in the region for the future, including preventive security arrangements between Iraq and neighboring Gulf countries. The French viewpoint, as communicated to President Mubarak by Mitterrand, asserted the need for Arab countries to play the basic role in acknowledging and implementing these arrangements with international assistance, and that this international assistance should not play a direct role in these arrangements except in cases of urgent need and in response to a direct request from the Gulf countries. Third, refusing to exploit this crisis by any regional or international party to achieve gains of any kind.

President Mubarak said he agreed with the French position, pointing out that every effort should be made to end the crisis peacefully.

Comments With Mubarak on Gulf

NC0411174590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 4 Nov (MENA)—French President Francois Mitterrand and the accompanying delegation left Alexandria this afternoon after taking part in the opening of the International African University, known as the Leopold Senghor University. President Husni Mubarak led the officials who saw him off at al-Nuzhah airport in Alexandria. [passage omitted]

In a predeparture statement, President Mitterrand said that he and President Mubarak discussed the Gulf problem during their talks today. He added that Egypt is a decisive factor in this problem, that he shares President Mubarak's views, that France sees the problem from the same viewpoint, and that we agree on the need to safeguard human rights and implement the Security Council's resolutions.

The French president noted that his country's stand on the Gulf crisis is well known. He said that Egypt adopts stands that are largely similar, and it also has sent troops to Saudi Arabia, while France has participated in the economic siege of Iraq. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on former Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson's mission in the region, President Mitterrand said: I have not charged anyone with any mission, but we are working for the sake of peace and respect for international laws.

In statements he made to Egyptian and French reporters before President Mitterrand's departure, President Mubarak expressed hope for the possibility of reaching a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. He said that the boycott is the best way to avoid military action. He added that the boycott will take time if it is applied fully and all countries abide by it, thus avoiding bloodshed.

Leaders Arrive for University Inauguration

Zairian President Mobutu

NC0311153190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1448 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 3 Nov (MENA)—Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko and his wife arrived in Alexandria this afternoon on a visit to Egypt that will last several days. During his stay he will attend the inauguration of the African francophone university, which will be called Senghor University.

The Zairian President and his wife were met by President Mubarak and his wife. [passage omitted]

Senegalese President Diouf

NC0311152990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1447 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 3 Nov (MENA)—Senegalese President Abdou Diouf and his wife arrived in Alexandria this afternoon on a visit to Egypt that will last several days. During his stay he will attend the inauguration of the francophone university in Alexandria, which will be called Senghor University.

The Senegalese president and his wife were met by President Mubarak and his wife. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Speaks at New University in Alexandria

NC0411123090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0958 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at the inauguration of Leopold Senghor University in Alexandria—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, and the compassionate.

Your Excellencies, presidents of the friendly states, dear guests of Egypt, ladies, and gentlemen.

With great pride, appreciation, and affection I welcome you to the ancient city of Alexandria, the bride of the Mediterranean and the beacon of intellect and knowledge in the ancient and modern worlds. Today Alexandria is experiencing a magnificent cultural event that links the present with the past and opens new horizons in the future, when cooperation and fraternity among peoples will prosper and the belief in a common human fate will deepen.

We are collectively redoubling our efforts to mobilize more energies to confront the new challenges that confront our march. Putting it briefly, the occasion that has brought us together at this momentous ceremony symbolizes the importance of the event and the significance of this moment and place alike. The event is the opening of the international francophone university to serve development in Africa. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers and friends, the establishment of this university coincides with the emergence of radical and important developments in the international arena concerning foundations of relations among states and the various blocs, mechanisms of comprehensive disarmament, and elimination of the danger of a destructive nuclear war. With the emergence of these promising positive phenomena, it pains us that some regions of the Third World should witness a throwback to the ages of anarchy and backwardness, a tendency to hold lightly to the rules of law and justice, and a tyrannical recourse to force to attain illegitimate objectives; regardless of the resulting misery and hardship to thousands of innocent people, the serious threats to people's security and to the stability of their conditions, and the spread of anarchy in the relations between the intermediate and small states as they call upon the major powers to abide by the rules of law and legitimacy and to stop dictating their will and achieving their demands by recourse to vicious force and blatant terrorism.

It behooves us to reiterate our appeal to the various states' governments in all parts of the world to shoulder their responsibilities and be committed to their basic duty of submitting to the rule of law and respecting human rights, which have been charted by orthodox divine laws, entrenched in the writings of the first philosophers and thinkers, and confirmed by the works of the learned people and the advocates of enlightenment in the modern era. [passage omitted]

Belgian Defense Minister Makes Four-Day Visit

Arrives in Cairo

NC0311150790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Belgian Defense Minister Guy Coeme arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a four-day visit.

He will hold talks with General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production, on strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

Holds Talks With Abu-Talib

NC0411112890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1032 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, held a session of military talks with Belgian Defense Minister Guy Coeme this morning.

Also present at the talks for the Egyptians were Lieutenant General Mustafa al-Shadhili, commander of the air defense forces; Lt. Gen. Ahmad Nasr; Major General Salah Hilmi, assistant to the defense minister; and Maj. Gen. Hitler Tantawi, secretary general of the Defense Ministry. Representing the Belgians were the Belgian

Embassy's charge d'affaires and members of the delegation accompanying Minister Guy Coeme.

The talks revolved around ways of bolstering bilateral military cooperation, particularly in the exchange of expertise, training, armaments, and joint military industry.

Iraqi Consul Says Workers Do Not Need Visa

JN0411074990 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 31 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] It was decided as of yesterday, Tuesday, that Egyptian workers who want to travel to Iraq do not have to obtain an entry visa to Iraqi territories, which they were asked to obtain until last week.

The Iraqi consul in Cairo told AL-AHALI about this decision. He said any Egyptian can travel to Iraq without a visa.

34 Al-Jihad Members Arrested; Firearms Seized

NC0211194790 Cairo MENA in English 1844 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Al-Fayyum, Egypt, Nov 2 (MENA)—Police arrested today 34 fundamentalists of the "Jihad" organization while they were on their way for a training in a desert area near Lake Qarun here.

The Jihad members were arrested after police had received information that Muhammad 'Abd-al-Latif, a Jihad leader in this city, who was arrested in several cases, was drafting some faculties and school students to join the organization.

Firearms and large quantities of ammunition were seized with the defendants.

227 Al-Jihad Extremists Arrested in Various Areas

JN0411111190 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 90 pp 1, 4

[Text] Security organs have apprehended 205 extremists in Bani Suwayf, most of whom belong to the al-Jihad Organization. Eighteen others were caught in al-Minufiyah and four in al-Qalyubiyah.

Major General Ibrahim Muhsin Sarhan, head of the security police in Bani Suwayf, said that the situation is calm after the clash between the police and the extremists and the discovery of an explosives cache at the home of Sayyid 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Azzuz, who is still at large.

He said that those who are proven innocent of extremism are being released immediately and that security organs are intensifying their efforts to apprehend the absconding extremist who belongs to the Caliphate Organization [tanzim al-khilafah], which is affiliated with the al-Jihad Organization.

A responsible security source said that 12 members of the al-Tabligh [Islamic call] group were released after they were arrested on their way from Suez to Cairo when it was discovered that this group had no part in any illegal activities.

The source said that the Interior Ministry has drawn up a new plan following Dr. al-Mahjub's assassination. The plan envisages increasing police ambushes and inspection raids along roads and in areas where extremists are likely to exist.

More on Al-Jihad Denial of Involvement in Murder

JN0411215690 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Washington—Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, said by Egyptian authorities to be the leader of the Islamic al-Jihad movement in Egypt, has denied their charge that the fundamentalists were behind the murder of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, calling the allegations groundless fabrications.

In a telephone interview with AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI from Washington, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman said: "In the aftermath of the killing of Rif'at al-Mahjub, the news media started leveling wild charges that have no basis in truth, including Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa's contention that a week before the incident, I went to Baghdad to see Saddam Husayn."

Added 'Abd-al-Rahman: "To show this falsehood for what it is, I am willing to have my passport—which is an official document—checked by all news agencies. Furthermore, I challenge any airline or airport anywhere in the world to produce evidence that I traveled to Baghdad. In any case, this insinuation is typical of security people, who are habitual liars and fighting a war against advocates of propagating the word of God. The confessions made at state security police and public prosecution offices were extracted under torture and beatings beyond human endurance. Those who hold out are known to be subjected repeatedly to torture until they crack."

He added: "The slander of innocents and the barbarity used in extracting confessions have made Egypt a byword for oppressive dictatorship and human rights abuses, as attested to by this month's Amnesty International report carried by Western newspapers and radio stations." Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman concluded by saying: "The Islamic group is not even remotely involved in the al-Mahjub incident, and the fingers must point at Jews or elements in the Egyptian Government."

Abu-Ghazalah Claims Credit for Debt Write-Off

NC0411211890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Presidential assistant 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah returned to Cairo from Washington this evening following a visit of several days to the United States.

In an arrival statement, Abu-Ghazalah said that he and former Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Dr. Ashraf Ghurbal talked with members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. We managed to convince them to write off Egypt's military debts, Abu-Ghazalah added. He noted that a draft resolution for writing off the debts was referred to various congressional committees and was later put before by the Senate and the House of Representatives for a vote. The resolution was approved within four days.

In his statement, Abu-Ghazalah said the outcome of the vote was 55 in favor and 42 against in the Senate, and 188 in favor and 162 against in the House of Representatives.

Morocco

King Hassan Sends Message to Algeria's Bendjedid

LD0211133190 Rabat MAP in English
1212 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 2 (MAP)—King Hassan II addressed President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria a congratulation message on the occasion of his country's National Day, commemorating this year the 36th anniversary of November 1, 1954 revolution.

In this message released Thursday, King Hassan II expressed satisfaction at the excellent nature of Moroccan-Algerian relations and at the understanding and cooperation "we have fortunately accomplished". The sovereign also expressed satisfaction at "the firm foundations we have laid down on the basis of our sincere will and mutual confidence for the edification of our great Arab Maghreb".

"Might God bless our undertakings and assist us in our step for the good of our two countries and brotherly peoples", King Hassan II said.

"We pray him", the sovereign said, "to assist us and all the leaders of our Arab nation in our efforts to overcome the delicate circumstances we are going through so our nation could triumph and face, with unity and fraternity prevailing in its ranks, the dangers threatening the brotherly Palestinian people".

Political Parties Protest 'Defamation Campaign'

LD0211133890 Rabat MAP in English
1246 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 2 (MAP)—New messages of protest against the defamation campaign led by the French media against Morocco and its sacred institutions were addressed by leaders of Moroccan political parties and various cultural and social associations as well as by local and provincial elects, intellectuals and outstanding personalities to the French president, prime minister and foreign minister.

Several Moroccan political parties held emergency meetings to discuss the reasons and aims of this campaign and denounce it as something likely to jeopardize the privileged relations existing between Morocco and France.

The Moroccan media have also vehemently condemned this campaign that will undermine the foundings of Moroccan-French relations and will only serve the interests of the lobby that is hostile to this secular friendship.

Media Question Wisdom of Mrs. Mitterrand Visit

LD0211133290 Rabat MAP in English
1223 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 2 (MAP)—No one can deny that the spouse of the president of France takes interest in human rights and devotes part of her time to the defense of these rights. But the fact that she falls in the trap of the Polisario theses and defends a groundless liberation cause will be held against her and against all those who urged her to take interest in what is called 'the Sahrawi people', 'AL-'ALAM' daily stated.

In a front page story on Mrs Mitterrand's planned trip to Tinduf, southern Algeria, as the chairwoman of the 'France-Libertes' Foundation, the daily of the Istiqlal Party (Nationalist-Opposition) said the Foundation decided 'to perfect the humanitarian character of this visit' by dispatching loads of foodstuffs and clothes to the Polisario.

The issue of human rights in the Tinduf camps is indeed worth of interest but not in the sense Mrs Mitterrand is considering it. Several Moroccans and nationals of other countries who were misled by the Polisario propaganda are currently sequestrated in the camps and prevented from going back to their respective homelands and are subjected to oppression and torture.

We so eagerly hope that Mrs Mitterrand will denounce the blatant violations of human rights from which suffer the population in the camps, but we know that we should not do it, since she [words indistinct] to keeping silence on genuine human rights violations, the daily stated recalling in this respect the aggressions of extremists against Maghreban immigrants or the slaughter of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

'AL-BAYAN' daily of the Party for Progress and Socialism [PPS-pro-communist] on its part said Mrs Mitterrand cannot ignore that her visit to the Tinduf camps is putting at stake French-Moroccan relations.

The daily said the moment is very delicate since the Sahara dossier is addressed by the UN secretary general who is about to submit to the UN Security Council new measures and arrangements for settling the Sahara issue.

'AL BAYA' vehemently denounced 'this unfriendly behaviour' and this assistance to a gang of mercenaries which daily violate human rights and individual freedom saying that for Moroccans all those tho back the Polisario propaganda are accomplices in the ordeal the Tinduf sequestrated populations are subject to.

The daily of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP-opposition) 'AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI' described the planned visit as a hostile attitude towards the Moroccan people's cause, an interference in Morocco's internal affairs and an attempt on its territorial integrity.

The USFP daily which pointed out that the trip will only set ablaze the region again and strain Moroccan-French relations, expressed hope that Mrs Mitterrand will reconsider her stand.

Mrs Mitterrand said Thursday she might cancel this trip 'if it really poses a problem'. 'I am not inclined to provocations', she said.

Sudan

Foreign Minister on Relations With Egypt, Iran

E403111945900 Khartoum SUNA in French 1045 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 3 Nov (SUNA)—Mr. 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, the foreign minister, has deplored what is currently happening between Sudan and Egypt, but also stressed that the two sides were making efforts to contain and find solutions to the problems which could have negative effects on bilateral relations. In a statement to the "AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH" daily, Mr. 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul added that efforts were in progress toward the positive aspects of the bilateral relations in spite of statements made by leaders in some brotherly countries. [passage omitted]

Mr. Sahlul condemned the tendency of supporting the rebel movement in order to destabilize Sudan's security [words indistinct]. He said such behavior was irresponsible. He warned against the tendency, the negative consequences of which would redound not only on Sudan but also on other parties. [passage omitted]

Asked about the lack of diplomatic representation in some parts of the world, the head of the Sudanese diplomacy said his ministry was concerning itself with the opening of embassies in southern Africa and Malaysia and with strengthening the Sudanese Embassy in Tehran. On Sudanese-Iranian relations, Mr. Sahlul said that these relations were currently improving considerably. He referred to the recent visit of Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, Revolution Command Council member and governor of Central Province. [passage omitted]

Mr. Sahlul announced that Sudan would participate in the extraordinary meeting of the council of Arab foreign ministers in Tunis to adopt a common position on the Jerusalem massacre. He added that Sudan was helping the Palestinians in their with struggle the Zionist enemy.

Discusses Gulf, U.S. Relationship

E403111514900 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul has affirmed that Sudan's policy on the Gulf crisis is to act within the framework of the Arab family and in solidarity with Arab leaders who view the crisis with realism and responsibility in order to develop a joint Arab position, bring about a peaceful resolution of the crisis based on international law, reconcile the sons of our Arab nation, and provide suitable solutions to all existing problems and disputes in the Middle East. The foreign minister said: Our interest is in the stability of the states in the region, in effecting reciprocal and required withdrawals, and in averting further damage to Kuwait and its people.

On anti-Sudanese campaigns, the foreign minister said in an interview for AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH published today: We know the Sudanese people at various levels have been infuriated by the campaigns mounted out by certain quarters which have transcended the bounds of decency, but we will not pursue such methods and we will strive to be tolerant and patient. On Ethiopian-Sudanese relations, the foreign minister said: Our relations with Ethiopia are developing and becoming more positive than they have been in the past. He said bilateral consultations and contacts had taken place and were continuing within the framework of the Inter-Governmental Agency on Drought and Development states. His excellency said: The coming weeks will witness palpable progress in the relations between the countries.

The minister described as regrettable the U.S. ambassador's recent statements in Washington alleging famine in Sudan and the Sudanese Government's hindrance of relief measures. However, we always take a long term view of Sudanese-U.S. relations inasmuch as these relations have been friendly ever since Sudan became independent in 1956. Our approach to those statements therefore tended to be one of understanding in the context of the nature of relations between the countries. The minister said: We know that the U.S. administration is more capable of evaluating stances and the importance of its relationship with Sudan than the spirit reflected by those statements.

Health Minister To Lift Embargo on UNDP Food

E402111915900 Khartoum SUNA in English 0921 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Nov (SUNA)—Health Minister Prof Muhammad Shakir al-Sarraj met here Thursday [1 November] the resident representative of the U.N. secretary general. The minister asserted his ministry's cooperation in all domains and promised to lift the embargo on all food materials of the UNDP [UN Development Program] presently in Port Sudan.

On the other hand the U.N. official was briefed same day by the director of environmental health on the health procedures adopted regarding the test of food materials delivered from abroad. The U.N. official said that quantities of food supplies worth 11 million pounds are due here stressing that food supplies brought by the UNDP were in accordance with international standards.

EC Donates Wheat

EA0211204090 Khartoum SUNA in English
0923 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Nov (SUNA)—The European Community has donated to Sudan some 10,000 tons of wheat in response to an appeal for supporting the drought-affected areas. The quantity was delivered last week through the Ministry of Relief to cover mainly Kurdufan and Darfur Regions.

The EC earlier donated 2,000 tons to Kurdufan Region and considering the delivery of the 10,000 tons of dura [sorghum]. [sentence as received]

Meanwhile, EC has allocated 108,000 [currency not specified] to cover the costs of transporting 540 Sudanese citizens from Jordan to Sudan. The donation was in response to an appeal made by the international immigration organisation. The first Sudanair flight from Amman arrived in Khartoum on 30th Oct and other flights are scheduled to arrive in the coming days.

Journalists Examine Situation

EA0311180690 Khartoum SUNA in English
1040 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Nov (SUNA)—The visiting Western journalists' delegation yesterday evening returned here after a two-day field visit to the Red Sea area aimed at inspecting the food situation there. Deputy Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Awad Khalifah said that the Western journalists are now convinced that there is no real starvation as some media have circulated but only food shortages resulting from the recent drought.

He said the delegation, which visited Port Sudan, Hayya, Tokar, and Delta is supposed to discredit now the alleged mass deaths caused by a famine. Khalifah stated that the journalists were meanwhile acquainted with the measures being taken by the local authorities in the Red Sea Province concerning the solution of the food shortage problem. The delegation comprised journalists from REUTER, UPI and two Swedish newspapers.

Army, Popular Defense Forces Attack Rebel Camp

EA0411155490 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1450 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Nov (SUNA)—Our Armed Forces supported by friendly forces and the Popular Defense Forces have destroyed an outlaws camp in southern Kurdufan in the Kayfiyyah al-Khayi area. [passage indistinct]

UK Envoy Denies Suggesting British Evacuate

EA0211135490 Khartoum SUNA in English
0919 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 2nd November (SUNA)—The Foreign Ministry Thursday [1 November] quoted the British ambassador here as denying that he had advised the British community to leave Sudan. The Foreign Ministry said, in a statement to SUDAN NEWS AGENCY that Foreign Under-Secretary 'Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Said expressed to the ambassador in a meeting at the former's office Sudan's surprise over British media reports that the British Embassy in Khartoum has advised its nationals to evacuate their dependants.

The ambassador was further quoted by the statement as saying that he has advised the British community in regular meetings that it would be better for them to check their documents to facilitate procedures in case of deterioration of the situation in the Gulf region. The ambassador said those procedures did not include exit visas.

Tunisia

Correction to Statement on Arab League Move

LD0211094190

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Ministry Issues Statement on Arab League Move," published in the 2 November Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 10: Column two, fourth paragraph, only sentence, end of item make read: ...accompanying the transfer operation, which particularly concern the second center, in Tunis, and the fate of the Arab League employees.... (clearing indistinct words)

Bahrain

U.S. Secretary of State Arrives in Manama 4 Nov

To Discuss Gulf Crisis

JN0411071190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 4 Nov (WAKH)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the accompanying delegation arrived in Manama this morning on a two-day visit to Bahrain as part of a tour in the region.

During the visit, the U.S. secretary will hold talks with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah on the latest developments of the Gulf crisis resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the efforts being made to bring about the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from and return of legitimacy to Kuwait. Talks will also deal with bilateral relations and means to strengthen them and the current Arab and international issues.

Meets Foreign Minister

JN0411171090 Manama WAKH in English 1657 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, Nov 4 (GNA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifah and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker held an official round of talks here this evening.

They discussed prospects of strengthening bilateral cooperation in all fields, possible measures to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and maintain security and peace in the Gulf region. Mr. Baker arrived in Manama earlier today as part of a regional tour.

Received by Amir, Premier

JN0411175490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 4 Nov (WAKH)—Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, and Heir Apparent and Defense Force Chief Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his delegation today.

During the meeting, they reviewed latest developments in the current Gulf crisis resulting from the Iraqi invasion of fraternal Kuwait and the international efforts to secure the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait and to reinstate its legitimate government, represented by the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. They also discussed relations and means of promoting them in all fields, and issues of joint interest.

Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, and U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain Charles Hostler attended the meeting.

Departs for Al-Ta'if

JN0511091390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0755 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 5 Nov (WAKH)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the accompanying delegation left for al-Ta'if this morning following a two-day visit to Bahrain.

The U.S. secretary of state held talks with senior Bahraini officials on bilateral relations and means to bolster them in all fields. The talks also dealt with the latest developments of the Gulf crisis resulting from the continued Iraqi invasion of the fraternal state of Kuwait as well as the efforts being made by the United States and the international community to secure the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government.

The talks also deal with current Arab and international issues and matters of interest to the two friendly countries. He was seen at the airport by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah and U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain Charles Hostler. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir Calls For Steadfastness Against Iraq

LD0311125190 London KUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Al-Ta'if, 3 Nov (KUNA)—His Highness Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al Sabah stressed today that there is no way to end the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait other than through the full and firm implementation of the international, Arab, and Islamic resolutions.

In a speech addressed to the Kuwaiti people and the world marking three months after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, his highness expressed his hope that the peace-loving states will concentrate their moves toward forcing Iraq to succumb to international will.

Here follows the full text of the speech:

Thanks be to God, peace and prayers to his prophet and messengers. Brothers, from time to time I find myself in need of talking to you heart to heart. Since Thursday, 2 August 1990, we have found ourselves experiencing an ordeal that is unprecedented in modern history.

The greatest affliction is that the regime which committed this heinous crime against Kuwait and its people used to boast and brag about pan-Arab security, and that an Arab should not use weapons against his Arab brother.

Brothers, my visits to the United Nations and to other friendly countries have enabled me to realize that the world is closely following and feeling the pain of the practices of the treacherous Iraqi regime against the defenseless sons of Kuwait, and the Iraqi violation of basic human rights.

The mask has dropped from the face of the aggressor. This aggressor used to hide his true ambitions behind this mask. His international isolation has increased, and the whole world has realized the true extent of his criminal nature.

If this treacherous regime still continues to fabricate pretexts and create shallow excuses to justify its barbaric aggression against an independent Arab and neighbor state, history bears witness that Kuwait's contribution toward Arab, Islamic, and international causes has been consistent, and has never stopped or been withdrawn for a single day.

Brothers, God Almighty wanted to test us by this harsh ordeal. Thus our faith in and acceptance of God's will dictates that we should be patient and trust that God almighty will make us victors, and that His light will shine even against the wishes of the infidels. [passage omitted]

Brothers, the sun of liberation will rise on the pure land of Kuwait soon, God willing, and the tyranical invaders will be defeated. [passage omitted]

Brothers, the building of new Kuwait requires a convergence of efforts by all its sons; and we shall not forget the heroic role played by the Kuwaiti women with their Kuwaiti brothers. If our responsibility now is to prepare plans for the reconstruction of Kuwait, we should look to the steadfast sons of the proud Kuwaiti people on the soil of the homeland. We should take a distinguished look at their various programs, for they have written with steadfastness—while suffering the various methods of torture at the hands of the forces of treachery and betrayal—the most brilliant pages of heroism and sacrifice. Also we will not forget the acts of some noble expatriates in cooperation with their Kuwaiti brothers against the greedy invaders.

While taking this opportunity to express our gratitude for the efforts to contain the explosive situation resulting form the Iraqi aggression against the state of Kuwait, we would like to [words indistinct] the UN Security Council and resolutions of the Arab summit and the Islamic foreign ministers in this connection. We hope that all peaceloving countries will intensify their efforts and moves to uproot the inherent and instinctive evil of the aggressive Iraqi regime, force it to heed international will, and put an end to its abuses of international legitimacy.

Brothers, if our ordeal is large and if our pain is unbearable, I am convinced that, with God's help and through our cooperation and unity, we will be able to build an independent Kuwait which will be stronger and firmer, and whose security and stability will be stronger.

The dear sacrifices shown by the sons of Kuwait in their confrontation against the treacherous soldiers of Iraq will form a firm foundation. Those who were forced to leave Kuwait or who were outside Kuwait during the invasion should consider themselves ambassadors of their homeland.

Loyalty to the homeland and the best way to represent it compels them to respect the laws and rules of their host countries. They should keep their faith in God Almighty, whatever they may be doing. May God guide us toward the right path and make us successful in our endeavors. Peace be upon you.

Premier Prefers 'Other Options' to Arab Summit

LD0211115190 London KUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Excerpts] al-Ta'if, 2 Nov (KUNA)—His Highness the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, has said that the Arab solution to the Gulf crisis has been present since the beginning of the crisis, and that the head of the Iraqi regime is the one who has ruled out the Arab factor or an Arab role by refusing to implement the resolutions of the Cairo Arab summit of 10 August.

In reply to a question by KUNA's correspondent concerning the usefulness of convening a new Arab summit conference and the recent proposal to include an Arab [words indistinct] in the efforts to peacefully resolve the crisis resulting from the Iraqi invasion and occupation of the State of Kuwait, he said: The Arab factor has been present since the beginning of the crisis, and the head of the Iraqi regime is the one who has ruled out the Arab factor or an Arab role by refusing to implement the resolutions of the Cairo Arab summit of 10 August, which condemned and rejected the Iraqi aggression on the State of Kuwait, called for withdrawal of Iraqi forces from all Kuwaiti territories, and supported the return of the legitimate authority of Kuwait.

His highness heir apparent said that the Arab solution is present in the form of the Arab summit resolutions, which expressed the will of the Arab homeland, and that there is no need and no point to convene a new Arab sumit. This is because the head of the Iraqi regime is not prepared to comply with the will of the Arab homeland by completely withdrawing from all Kuwaiti territories and allowing the legitimate authority to return to the State of Kuwait. Any initiatives or proposals that do not achieve that are attempts to procrastinate, prevaricate, and waste time.

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister recalled that the Iraqi regime has previously rejected Arab involvement in resolving its dispute with Kuwait, even before its invasion and occupation of Kuwait, when it rejected a Kuwaiti proposal to set up an Arab arbitration committee through the Arab League to look into the Iraqi claims. His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah stressed that while it is eager to avoid the shedding of blood, Kuwait has insisted on its firm stance of not accepting any solution that does not achieve the full implementation of the resolutions of the Arab summit conference held in Cairo on 10 August and the UN Security Council resolutions, all of which call for

the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territories and the reinstatement of the State of Kuwait's legitimate authority.

Regarding the extent of the effectiveness of international economic sanctions against the Iraqi regime, HH Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah said: it has become clear that the economic sanctions have not achieved the expected results and they have not succeeded in forcing the Iraqi regime to submit to the will of the international community and withdraw from Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The heir apparent said: The time has come for the international community to look into other options to force the Saddam Husayn regime to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, to unconditionally withdraw from all Kuwaiti territories, and to put an end to the suffering of the Kuwaiti people and foreign expatriates in Kuwait, who are exposed to daily acts of brutality, terrorism, and torture by the Iraqi occupation forces.

Foreign Minister Dismisses Iraqi Claims in Letter

LD0211212590 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1857 GMT 2 Nov 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Program"]

[Text] The [Kuwaiti] deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, has sent a message to the Arab League acting secretary general, Mr. As'ad al-As'ad. Here is its text:

Mr. As'ad al-As'ad, acting secretary general of the Arab League,
Greetings,

In reference to the message which the foreign minister of the treacherous Iraqi regime asked to be distributed together with its annexes as a document of the Arab League, and in reference to his allegations in it about a so-called message to the Kuwaiti interior minister attributed to the director of the State Security Directorate which the Iraqi foreign minister claimed to show a conspiracy between the Kuwaiti and U.S. Governments to destabilize Iraq; perhaps in this context I do not need to point out the lies and fabrications in this so-called message, which are completely unfounded. In addition to its linguistic contents, which have never been used in Kuwait, and in addition to the fact that the style of address among the Kuwaiti officials is different, any sensible person will not find it difficult to realize that the contents of the so-called message contradict Kuwaiti beliefs, principles, and values and the customary Kuwaiti principled course.

Undoubtedly you understand that the actions carried out by the brutal Iraqi regime in my country, Kuwait, as well as its brutal inhuman practices and looting of all that could be carried away from Kuwait, have underlined that regime's real nature and its dangers to the whole human race. Perhaps you also understand that that bloody regime has not and will not hesitate to use all legitimate and illegitimate means to fulfill its aims, contrary to all human laws and traditions and heaven's messages.

Because of that regime's history of brutal crimes and actions, it is not surprising that it carries out any action that might serve its evil aggressive aims, such as fabricating imaginary events and words or forging documents, and this so-called message will not be the last. We should expect even more from such a regime, which stands alone against all human society. How could anyone believe such lies from a regime which did not allow even humanitarian organizations to enter Kuwait to see the living conditions of the Kuwaiti people and those residing in Kuwait to ease their sufferings, which resulted from the killings, dispersements, and starving committed by the brutal forces of that regime—practices unprecedented in human society. This comes in addition to other actions committed by that chaotic regime—actions that were rejected by the whole human race, such as destroying Kuwaiti heritage and ruining historical documents and manuscripts in an attempt to blur the Kuwaiti identity. This is not to mention brutal practices against accredited diplomats and other innocent foreigners in Kuwait working at Kuwaiti Government organizations and public and private companies. That regime has detained these people as human shields, disregarding all international treaties, traditions, and the most basic human values.

Dear brother, you understand the extent of the harm caused to Arab solidarity by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and that it destroyed the aspirations of the sons of the Arab people at a time when we urgently need to consolidate joint Arab action. The criminal Iraqi regime pretended at the Baghdad summit—which was held before Iraq's brutal invasion of Kuwait—to be enthusiastic about the principle of national Arab security; then by this crime it has put on record that it is the first one to violate that principle in a deliberate and premeditated way. That regime also was the first of these challenges [to national Arab security], not only against Kuwait and those honorable Arabs living in it but also against the whole Arab nation. The talk about Arab solidarity and the unity of Arab ranks has become unrealistic talk.

That barbarous invasion of Kuwait has affected the brave uprising of the Palestinian people and given an opportunity to the Israeli occupation forces to carry on rampaging in the occupied Arab territories in a way similar to the practices of the Iraqi occupation forces in Kuwait. During the period of the Iraqi invasion, huge numbers of Jewish emigrants poured into occupied Palestine. By its criminal practices, that deceptive regime also deformed the Arab image before the world and made Arabs look like criminals who do not respect any sanctity, treaties, or promises, disregarding them completely.

Because of all this, I wrote to your excellency to refute the contents of the message of the foreign minister of the aggressive Iraqi regime. I hope that our message will be distributed as an official document of the Arab League.

Please accept our sincere greetings and appreciation.

[Signed] Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir

Prime Minister Receives French Official

LD0311213590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Taif 3 Nov (SPA)—His Highness the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, received today Ambassador Jean Bressot, official in charge of relations between the French Government and the government of the State of Kuwait. The meeting was attended by the secretary of state for foreign affairs, Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad.

Government Warns on Documents Distributed by Iraq

LD0211185490 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Nov 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message"]

[Text] The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry has warned against official Kuwaiti publications and documents which have been distributed in the capitals of the world. Those documents were seized by the Iraqi regime when it invaded Kuwait on 2 August. A ministry spokesman said in a statement distributed today that the ministry draws attention to this despite the naivety of the contents which the Iraqi regime usually incorporates in these documents. The source confirmed that the Iraqi regime will not hesitate to use all the twisted criminal methods which serve its aggressive objectives, including the documents in its hands to be used against Kuwait or other states in the world.

Envoy to UK Seeks Action Against Iraq

LD0211141790 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1332 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti ambassador to Britain called today for immediate military action to liberate Kuwait.

Mr Ghazi Al-Rayyis said the time for waiting for economic sanctions to work was past. There was no other way to get Iraqi forces out of Kuwait but by force, he said in London, launching a Free Kuwait Day to mark the third month since the invasion. He released thousands of black balloons from the south bank to launch a campaign which aims to keep the suffering of the Kuwaiti people in the public mind. The ballons symbolised the 7,000 Kuwaiti people who have died since the August invasion.

"We have waited long enough, I don't like to wait until tomorrow," he said. "I think the best way is to use force against him [Iraqi President Saddam Husayn]—I don't think the man understands peace."

Mr Al-Rayyis said the 90 days since the Iraqi invasion of his tiny country seemed like 90 years. "Our people are suffering and being killed every day," he said.

"We have lost our country when it was a jewel and we know Saddam Husayn has levelled everything. He promised on the first day to turn Kuwait into a big graveyard and he is fulfilling that promise." Mr Al Rayyis gave a message to his people: "Hold on, fight back and don't give up. The whole world is with you."

Oman

Jordan's King Husayn Concludes 'Private' Visit

JN0211115490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Muscat, 2 Nov (WAKH)—King Husayn of Jordan and his delegation today left Muscat following a three-day private visit to Oman. He was seen off on departure by Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman and senior officials.

Saudi Arabia

Syrian Armored Formation Arrives in Yanbu'

Commander Stresses Arab Duty

LD0411214590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Yanbu', 4 Nov (SPA)—Staff Major General 'Ali Habib, commander of the Syrian support forces in the multinational forces, has stated that the Syrian forces have come to Saudi Arabia to stand by their brother members of the Saudi Armed Forces and join in defending the kingdom's territories, out of their pan-Arab sense of duty toward their brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In a statement to SPA, following the arrival of the Syrian forces in Yanbu' today, Staff Maj. Gen. Habib said that other Syrian forces had arrived in the kingdom some months ago and that "this armored formation has come to join those forces, and more formations will follow, God willing, in response to the wishes of the Saudi command."

He pointed out that the arrival of the Syrian forces in the kingdom epitomizes the close relationship that binds the leadership and peoples of the two countries together.

AFP Details Deployment

NC0411212490 Paris AFP in English 2035 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Yanbu', Saudi Arabia, Nov 4 (AFP)—Syrian T-62 tanks and several thousand troops from a crack armoured division arrived in this Red Sea port on Sunday. The first 2,500 troops from a 12,000-strong armoured division pledged by Syria to Saudi Arabia arrived in Yanbu' aboard a Saudi transport ship.

Syria has said it would send 15,000 troops to the kingdom following the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Some 3,000 Syrian troops are already in the country. A Syrian officer said 106 tanks were on board

the ship which arrived Sunday. Saudi Lieutenant General Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz welcomed the Syrian force and said that the remaining troops should be in Saudi Arabia "within a few weeks."

Government Denies Mistreatment of Yemenis

LD0211174690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 2 Nov (SPA)—A responsible source made a statement to SPA today in which he said:

Some news agencies reported yesterday the allegations and fabrications by the independent Amnesty International organization in London to the effect that the Saudi security forces had tortured Yemenis, mistreated them, and expelled them due to suspicion that they oppose the Kingdom's stand, citing in this statements by Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani to the ASSOCIATED PRESS last month.

The source went on to say: Despite the fact that the Kingdom replied at the time through a responsible source to Al-Iryani's fabrications and subsequently refuted the groundless accusations made by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES a week ago, and despite the fact that all the clarifications made by the Kingdom in this respect were published and transmitted by all the information media, Amnesty International came up with its statement in which it regrettably got entangled with planted and wholely fabricated information. The source said: We categorically deny those fabrications and allegations contained in the Amnesty report. [passage omitted]

The Kingdom welcomes any Amnesty International member who wishes to find out for himself the facts about the matters which we have pointed out, anytime.

Military Leaders Meet U.S. Naval Secretary

LD0411213490 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] General Muhammad Salih al-Hamad, Saudi chief of the general staff, today at his office received the U.S. Secretary of the Navy H. Lawrence Garrett and the accompanying delegation.

[Riyadh Television Service in Arabic at 1800 GMT on 4 November adds in a similar report that Saudi Naval Commander Talal al-Fadl also met with Garrett on 4 November to discuss "issues of mutual concern."]

Soviet Minister Views Petrochemicals Cooperation

PM0511094390 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 28 Oct 90 p 10

[Interview with Soviet Foreign Economic Relations Minister Konstantin Katushev by Sulayman al-Nasir; place, date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [Al-Nasir] What are the results of your talks with Saudi officials?

[Katushev] Our states have entered a new phase following consultations in the political field and other contacts over recent years, hence the resumption of diplomatic relations and the normalization of the basis of relations between the two states.

The Soviet people support and are following with interest all the measures taken and being taken by the Saudi Government and people to enhance its international status in the economic and political fields. [passage omitted]

I held talks in Riyadh at the Commerce, Finance and National Economy, Industry, and Planning ministries. And I met with a number of Saudi businessmen. We regard the talks held as an exchange of views very useful to both sides, as there is a need for mutual interest in one another's proposals and capabilities. I believe the results of the talks provide a strong foundation for establishing strong and regular economic and trade ties between our states. There are some important meetings at the political leadership level and with the business community in Jeddah.

[Al-Nasir] Are we to understand from your excellency's statement that there will be direct trade and economic contacts in terms of goods?

[Katushev] There will be some such cooperation. And according to my understanding of the dialogue and talks with all the Saudi officials, the Saudi side is totally willing to conclude trade deals and conduct trade exchange directly and without intermediaries.

We particularly stated to the Saudi side that the Soviet side is ready to open an official trade mission in the kingdom. Then we would be able to proceed on the basis of our qualitative and organizational experience acquired in other countries. We hope during the remaining part of the visit to discuss with Saudi officials that very subject—official trade representation in your country—in a manner that suits Saudi wishes. Anyhow, the two sides are agreed on the need to establish direct trade relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

[Al-Nasir] Your Excellency Minister, you visited al-Jubayl during your visit, and SABIC [Saudi Basic Industries Corporation] is currently representing Saudi Arabia at a Moscow exhibition. Are you thinking of investment cooperation in the petrochemical field?

[Katushev] I am not specialized in subjects related to petrochemical industries. But economically it is believed that cooperation in that field in particular would be fruitful and useful for both sides. This conclusion is drawn from what we saw today, namely the advanced technologies in the petrochemicals field. We also saw a high proportion of national cadres running these economically effective establishments. We too are moving toward developing that field of the Soviet economy and

will attract foreign expertise from all over the world. Saudi Arabia enjoys advanced expertise in that field and it would be useful to benefit from Saudi experience in petrochemicals. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Receives Turkish Official

LD0311220490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 3 Nov (SPA)—His Royal highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense, and aviation, and inspector general received at his palace in Jeddah this evening Namik Kemal Kaittic [name as received], advisor to the Turkish finance minister, who conveyed to his highness a message from his excellency Turgut Ozal, the Turkish president, to the custodian of the two holy mosques.

The meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying the advisor of the Turkish finance minister and the Turkish Ambassador to the Kingdom Yasar Yakis.

Yemen Leaders Accused of Having 'Saddamist Dreams'

JN0211184590 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 1 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Will Yemeni Rulers Realize The Mistake?"]

[Text] The confusion the authority in fraternal Yemen has been experiencing indicates that things have gotten out of hand. For example, the statements of some Yemeni officials talk about the impact of popular pressure on the Yemeni Government as a result of its unjust positions on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, which support Iraq and collaborate with it against higher Arab interests. Add to this the severe economic difficulties Yemen has been suffering as a result of mismanagement and the conduct of the ruling regime within the framework of the elusive Saddamist dreams.

It is not strange that the rulers of Yemen should resort to falsehoods, circulation of lies, and excuses for their hostile stand toward the Kingdom and the rest of the Gulf countries. In doing so, they are merely obeying the orders of the ruler of Baghdad. Also, it is not strange that Yemeni media should circulate these falsehoods, which depart from reality because they receive orders from the Iraqi Embassy in Sanaa.

Because the Yemeni authority has used the return of Yemenis from the Kingdom as an excuse for the reckless media campaigns, then the Yemenis themselves have the right to wonder: Why is this position not the same regarding the return of Yemenis from Iraq or Kuwait, who escaped the hell of Iraqi forces, with the well-known difference that those who returned from the Kingdom came back with all their possessions, while those who returned from Iraq returned empty-handed after all their possessions and rights disappeared.

The Kingdom has never adopted a hostile position toward Yemen in the history of relations between the two countries. Why are the rulers of Yemen, then, trying to spoil the love and brotherhood that bind the two peoples, even though they know that such attempts will not advance any cause of theirs or solve any problem. All there is to it is that they are carrying out the orders of their masters in Baghdad.

Whether the Yemenis choose to go back to Yemen or stay in the Kingdom, they are brothers who have the right of neighborhood, and they are obliged to respect the laws of the Kingdom like other Arab brothers who consider the Kingdom an oasis of goodness and sacrifice, and a fortress of security and prosperity. So, will the rulers of Yemen realize their mistake and wrongdoing?

United Arab Emirates

Military Commanders Comment on Readiness in UAE

NC0211152590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1308 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Al-Shariqah, 2 Nov (MENA)—Staff Brigadier General Khalil Kamil Kha'il, commander of the Egyptian Armed Forces' paratrooper units, today inspected the Egyptian special forces deployed in the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

He watched these forces perform an exercise as part of their effort to promote their combat readiness and efficiency. This will enable them to assist the UAE's forces in defending against any attack. This assistance is within Egypt's commitment to the resolutions of the emergency Arab summit held in Cairo last August.

The exercise included live ammunition training to enable these forces to face all situations and threats that they might encounter, such as chemical or biological warfare, air strikes, and anti-armor artillery.

Staff Brig. Gen. Zaki 'Abd-al-Ghani, commander of the Egyptian forces in the UAE, said today that his forces enjoy a high morale and a high level of combat efficiency, and that they are ready to execute any mission assigned to them and to deal with any contingency that they may encounter. [passage omitted]

He said that past experience has proved that the Egyptian fighter is able to fight under any circumstances, day or night, as a professional combatant. This indicates the full capability of the Egyptian forces to operate effectively in all terrains. [passage omitted]

Saddam Addresses Union Group 3 Nov

JN0311165890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Nov 90

["Text" of speech by President Saddam Husayn to a delegation of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, ICATU, general secretariat, participating in the ninth general conference of the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions, in Baghdad on 3 November]

[Text] Thanks be to God who caused us to meet to discuss our situation throughout the past six months, which we see as better than before. As you know, brother Arab workers, our policies are the same as those of the ordinary Arab citizens. They are not based on the material wealth we have, but on the degree we climb on the ladder of moral and spiritual considerations. Throughout Arab history—which we have known, especially after the light of Islam illuminated the lands of the Arabs and Muslims—the spiritual and moral considerations outweighed the other considerations and constituted the basis for their great resources to act and meditate at the same time.

This fact is known by the enemies of the nation. Therefore, they have endeavored to disrupt the equation and give supremacy, in behavior and concepts, to the material things, not other considerations. They have begun their scheme as soon as the invaders set foot on the lands of the Arabs in order to preoccupy the Arabs with the details of the material life and weaken their moral considerations and spiritual trends. When the foreigners discovered oil in the lands of the Arabs, instead of making oil a material element that would feed and strengthen spiritual and moral considerations, and create a material base that does not plunge into vice but gives supremacy to virtue, the foreigner endeavored to change this blessing, which God granted to the Arabs, into a curse, a curse against its owners and against all Arabs. We see—and I do not feel we disagree on this, because we are all the sons of the same nation and have the same general trend—that he who owns more than what is necessary will be weakened, and he who owns nothing that would enable him to achieve a reasonable status will also be weakened. They wanted to weaken the sons of the nation, both the haves and the have-nots. They put oil at the hands of the minority and corrupted them, and deprive the majority from the source of power and abused it in order to weaken them.

If we study this principle in detail, from the Arab Maghreb to the Arab East, we will find many things in our life that indicate it. The simple citizen in Marrakech carries a heavier burden in his daily life and in his purchasing power because of the oil of Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates. The commodity which used to be exported to the region at an x value, began to be exported at an x-plus value because of the tangible general belief that the region is rich due to the presence of oil. Even if we take things in technical terms—when I gave this example, which is not a principal thing in our life, I meant to say that even in technical terms—oil has become a curse instead of a blessing. Those who have without having to work cannot but be corrupt.

They brought in the most despotic type of people in the society to make of them rulers in control of Arab oil and to create from this corrupt pathological conduct stereotypes showing Arabs in the West as weak not only behaviorally, but also intellectually. They used the Arab wealth—which is supposed to bring about advancement—into a weapon against their social, intellectual, and political reputation.

What we want from Arab wealth is for all the Arabs to be powerful—oil producers and non-producers alike. Arabs cannot conceivably be powerful before Arabs everywhere act in the spirit of the historical fact that we are one nation, notwithstanding the geographical reality of the existence of many Arab countries. If this perception is put into practice, over time we will be acting like one entity or that we are one entity in concept and behavior. Then we will be closer to God—rich and poor alike. But growing deprivation, coupled with the vicious intent to crush the deprived, might drive some of them from God on account of want. There can be no question that the rich who have not earned their wealth are farther from God.

We want not only to obtain enough honor and security for the entire nation to be satisfactory to us, but also and, more importantly, to win the approval of God.

Luckily for the Arabs, these ideas originated in an oil country, namely Iraq. Otherwise, Iraq's intentions would have been called into question. Luckily, these ideas had been floated long before now, specifically in 1979 and 1980. Then came the war and these ideas were shelved after the Amman summit, lest cynics accuse Iraq of having floated the proposal because it was in dire straits, being at war. We put the idea in abeyance pending the end of the war, when again we revived it and proposed that it cover economic and other aspects to promote an existence befitting the Arabs. And we were open-minded, and indeed we wanted very much to discuss and press the idea with our Arab brothers. Through our contacts, particularly the Arab Cooperation Council, we made a point of giving vent to these ideas in the hope that this restricted forum would afford us the opportunity to shed the negative points, consolidate the more positive ones, and promote joint action.

The conspiracies, which did not begin on 2 August, began against the center through which the evildoers wanted to affect the entire nation's morale, and not only the Iraqi people's morale. The conspiracies were always concocted. They are not new for us, except in their form and in the kind of resources that have been mobilized behind their slogans. As for the conspiracies themselves, they have existed for a long time. You must have read about what was called Irangate, which was exposed by the Western media, and which was concocted in 1986—just as the Palestinian brother, who is from Jerusalem, said that the objective of the conspiracy against the Arab

nation is to detect the elements of strength of the nation. The conspiracy targets every element of pan-Arab strength that is capable of revitalizing all the nation's elements of power throughout the Arab homeland. From the premise of this interpretation, the conspiracy targeted 'Abd-al-Nasir's regime, and on the basis of this interpretation, too, we are now regrettably dealing with Husni, who wants to place Arab Egypt in the trench of Zionism and America. Perhaps it is the first time we talk on such a level. I believe I spoke about this in the past, but I cannot recall exactly when, to the effect that late in 1989, we officially spoke with America through the foreign minister; the talk was held with U.S. Secretary of State Baker himself. We told them that you are plotting against us, and we have proof of this. We also told them that if you imagine that the method of plots in the Third World states can produce any results for you in Iraq, then you are being deluded.

Last June, we certainly learned that some Arab leaders, without prior consultation with us—and we did not know of this—sent them written letters in which they warned them of a conspiracy against the person of Saddam Husayn. This means that those Arab leaders have, in one way or another, known that the Americans were conspiring against the person of Saddam. Saddam Husayn is a simple man, one of the many Arab citizens [applause]. So, why are they conspiring against him? The world's number one superpower is conspiring against him.

They are certainly conspiring against him because he represents a corporate state in the Iraqi policy and the Arab concept. In March, which preceded 2 August by 5 months, the U.S. Congress deliberated and decided to cut off the daily bread from the Iraqi people. When we reached 2 August, as you have seen, the Americans sought a comprehensive economic and scientific boycott of Iraq by the entire West, and they achieved some aspects of this boycott. Every day they came to us with a new banner, a new slogan through which they attacked Iraq and distorted the image of Iraq in world public opinion: once the supergun, once the British spy Bazoft, once the so-called capacitors that are used to produce nuclear bombs, once why Iraq possesses the binary chemical. Under the cover of this propaganda, they were suggesting a strike by Israel. But we said clearly last April, and I think also on 2 April, that this time Israel should make good calculations. The one who strikes at Iraq or any Arab has to bear in mind the Iraqi reaction. If they strike us once we will burn half of it. They then omitted the phrase: "If they strike this time," and used the second part: "Saddam Husayn wants to burn Israel or half of it."

Why this enmity, why this injustice, why this plotting? You yourselves have found the answer. They then asked the corrupt shaykhs of Kuwait to play their evil role and they are capable of playing this role. Everyone is assigned a role according to his ability, for they are experts in issues of money, economy, and sabotage. They assumed this role. They even turned the value of the Iraqi dinar to one-twentieth of the value of the Kuwaiti dinar, after the Iraqi dinar was higher in value than the Kuwaiti dinar in 1980. They then brought the price of oil down to $11. They were planning to bring it down further to $7 in order to crush the petroleum countries which are more progressive—let us say so in old standards—or, say, which are nationalist. [applause] But Iraq is in the forefront, and from Iraq they target the nation and not the people of Iraq. The connection between the nation and Iraq in terms of both concept and behavior is clear in the minds of the Iraqis and their policy.

Then, as an example, this is our tradition, this is our course, this is our belief. We must cut off the head of whoever tries to conspire against us—and by us I mean the nation—rather than bowing down and bargaining over the nation's sanctities. And this is what happened. Kuwait, which is a part of Iraq's land—you know as Arabs, that Iraq's civilization is 6,000 years old. Is it possible for a civilization which is 6,000 years old to have been isolated from the sea? A part of Iraq's land was cut off by English scissors. Yet, we used to deal with them in a natural way, hoping that God would compensate us with a relationship of brotherhood, which we used to expect from them. It seems we were wrong. So God the almighty willed what he willed, and rid the nation of this conspiring and filthy hotbed. He retrieved the part which had been weakened to become a part of the strong state, so that it can derive greater strength from it.

Then came the fleets of the invaders. The fleets of the invaders came, and they were certain to come. But they could have come to Kuwait to claim that Iraq is threatening Kuwait. But this time, because Kuwait was returned to its rightful people, they went to the land of the sanctities of the Arabs and Muslims. They occupied the Arabian Peninsula, they occupied Saudi Arabia.

We have no option before us to choose from. [repeats himself] We have no option before us to choose from: It is either dignity, honor, pride, sovereignty, nationalism, pan-Arabism, and Islam, or the opposite of all that—filth, and so on—and for God's sake we will not choose this road. So we have to choose the course we have taken; we have to choose the course of dignity, honor, sovereignty, nationalism, pan-Arabism, pride, and the true principles of Islam, which for hundreds of years had been set within the framework of routine and bureaucracy.

You know very well that life stops in any state which places the course of its action within the framework of routine and bureaucracy, or the essential and important aspect of its life stops. Islam, which is the spirit of God and the capabilities of the Arabs on the earth, has been transformed into a state of routine and bureaucracy, practiced by the majority according to the technical advice of the minority. And when the minority gives technical advice to the majority, it does so without much effort and through theoretical formulas with which the jihad formula does not always agree. When the majority receives technical advice, it receives it in a day-to-day routine way to perform some kinds of rituals that have

been stripped of their basic spirit and the reasons for which they were revealed, or for which they exist.

The Arabs now face the inevitable restoration of their historical role which God has wanted for them, and which they deserve as a genuine nation that has a role to play in the life of mankind and its national course. When pressure reaches its peak, and when humiliation reaches the highest degrees, then there must be an explosion that puts matters on the right course. Three holy places for the Arabs and Muslims are occupied; Jerusalem, Mecca, and the Prophet Muhammad's tomb, may God's peace and blessings be upon him. Is there anything that is more humiliating, unjust, and aggressive than this to mobilize and reactivate the resources of Arabs and Muslims? There is no any other choice for Arabs, all Muslims, and all honest believers in the world except to revolt against this injustice and aggression, and to stand fast against Satan and the despots. [applause]

We have no other choice; we seek and aspire to peace, a peace under which the armies of the despots will leave our land and holy places and will let the Arabs solve their problems, since they are better qualified to do so. [applause] If they really seek peace for the entire region, then we hope that peace will prevail in the entire region. So, let them come with no preconditions; let them come to meet, to hold a dialogue, and to discuss the region's affairs. Then what can be decided will be decided in light of each issue's background, special characteristics, and status of the pending issues based on a just resolution to be issued by the United Nations away from pressure, threats, warnings, or small or big considerations, and all sides must have in mind that God is the greatest and the most exalted. Only then will the cause of our mujahid, struggler, and oppressed Palestinian people be at the forefront. [applause]

Humanitarianism, real humanitarianism, O politicians of the West, whose significance is known only by a select few of you of those who are in power—real humanitarianism is to save the Palestinian women and children from the daily injustice, repression, and killings the Zionist gang carries out on the land of Palestine, and not to restore a corrupt group to power as you hope for. What they hope for is too distant and will not materialize, God willing. [applause]

Therefore, whoever talks about humanitarian concerns must address the Palestinian question. Our aggrieved Palestinian people have been marking time for decades—the Palestinians who have been victimized, whose land was stolen and dignity insulted, and who have been living in the worst imaginable social misery. This is the litmus test of humanity. Advocates of humanity must look at the Palestinian question quickly and resolve it. The yardsticks are the measures they implemented against Iraq. Let them apply these to the Zionists in terms of an embargo, deprivation, navies, inspection, etc. If this were to happen, in a month they would withdraw from occupied Palestinian land and other occupied Arab territory, including the Golan and other lands. This is the battle of the entire Arab nation. It is not the battle of the Iraqis alone. Iraq is only the scene of the battle. [applause]

You must know that principles count for much in this country, as they have in the conscience of the Arabs and in the minds of Muslims throughout history. And yet, as the minister of information said, in any case the battle is not taking place on American territory for the United States to call up its people, who outnumber our people but not our nation. [applause] If the battle were taking place on American soil, Bush could have called the American people into action on national and humanitarian grounds. He could then rightly resist us. Under such circumstances, we would not be in a position to fight against America's strength. But where is the American strength? Is it being deployed against us on American soil, or has it not come across the seas to insult our sanctities and, in the meantime, make preparations for aggression against Iraq? It is now at Hafar al-Batin, where the battle will take place. It is neither in the United States nor in Britain. When the war erupts at Hafar al-Batin, whatever armies they field will be defeated, God willing. [applause]

Let us say clearly: They may hope to occupy this or that chunk of Iraq. The side initiating the attack may be able to achieve this. They may be able to occupy a stretch of land of the governorate of Kuwait. But you must know that we have staying power in battle. If they capture a stretch of territory, we will fight back and regain it. They must, therefore, depart the land of the Arabs, and the Zionists must depart the land of Palestine. We insist on these demands. The battle today is not over what has happened after 2 August. It is the battle of defending all sanctities and the right to choose. The imbalance is glaring. There is an imbalance between the spiritual and material sides. This imbalance must be corrected, and things must be put in proper perspective. Further, in common with other nations, the Arabs must be left to enjoy their right to life. It is not right to say that the American people may choose for themselves what they want, but the Arabs may not do likewise.

If the Arabs willingly take one step back in Iraq, this will be used as a precedent to prevent any future Arab unity. They act as if they want to divide the nation forever and cancel the people's role and right to decide any affair. The day will come when they will interfere even in bilateral Arab relations. They were annoyed by the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. It seems that their worry abated only through Husni's reassurances that he would be the traitor within this grouping. Instead of thanking the honorable Arabs for bringing him to the ACC, he cursed the Arabs and blamed them for bringing him to the ACC. We wanted Egypt in the ACC, but not Husni himself. We invited Husni to be a member of the ACC in appreciation of Egypt. Egypt is part of us and vice versa, as the brother from Morocco said. He is an Iraqi in Morocco, and we are Moroccans in Iraq. Likewise, the Egyptians are Moroccans in Egypt and the Algerians are Egyptians in Algeria. This is the meaning of one nation.

We are the sons of one nation. When faced by truth and falsehood, or right and wrong, people will choose what is right. Who are the people with now? By being with Iraq, the Arab people are with themselves. This means they choose the right path. Have you seen a demonstration in the Arab homeland against Iraq, as the information minister has said? It seems that he is interested in such matters. Have you even seen a demonstration in the world in support of [Shaykh] Jabir and seeking to restore him and Sa'ad to power in Kuwait? [applause] The honorable people in America, however, stage demonstrations against Bush and call on him to withdraw his armies from the land of the Arabs. The honorable people in France demonstrate against the Atlantic armies on the land of Arabs. The honorable people in Britain demonstrate against the calculating Thatcher, who brought her armies to the land of Arabs. We must draw attention, brethren, to the following point: When a Westerner is in power he is careful to choose words that support the Arabs, but when he is out of power, he will immediately choose strong words in support of the Arabs. This indicates how influential Zionism is in the life of the Western men of power. This makes some of them—and there are many—depart from the truth. As long as they are out of power and lose hope of reaching the desired seat, they say the strongest of words in support of the Arabs and Arab rights, Palestine and the Palestinian rights. Thus, we are facing a contradiction: Some Arab rulers are pursuing falsehood and all the nation's sons are pursuing truth. [applause]

If the West is really democratic then it should opt for what was chosen by the sons of the Arab nation. In other words, it should not oppose what was chosen by the sons of the Arab nation. An indication of the people's position is embodied by the benevolent group in this hall—a group of Arab workers who represent Arab workers. The Arab workers are aligned with righteousness, and the spies are with them [the enemies]. [applause] We do not want spies, and we are not intimidated by spies. Spies always constitute a technical state of affairs and a small minority isolated in a dark corner, waiting there until it becomes darker so they can pounce on a target that is close by. The nation will continue to be stronger. God is always greater and stronger than all. Why should we be afraid? We no longer have the right to be afraid. How can Saddam Husayn say this? It is shameful for an official to say: I am afraid. An official calculates, and should not be afraid, because this is a shame. Here, I am speaking for the women in Iraq, who say that we no longer have the right or opportunity to be afraid, after all this honor they have achieved as representatives of the nation in Iraq. We no longer have the right or opportunity to be afraid. [applause]

Brothers, this battle is not a battle for technical issues for which we have chosen words, as one of the brothers said, from the dictionary of diplomacy in an effort find a solution for them. Instead, it is this: a social, cultural, pan-Arab, humanitarian, and an Islamic battle, with all its exalted meanings. Falsehood, including all its characteristics, is in the opposite trench. When the battle is described this way, then we should be on this level and ready to endure sacrifices. We should be ready to endure difficulties. In Iraq, Iraq will continue to be at the forefront. Your brothers, the Iraqis, are aware of their rights and duties. They are now more honored after you have granted them the trust to represent you in the future battle in this geographic location of the battle. If they come to achieve peace, then this is what we want—an honorable peace, peace on an Arab land that is not occupied, peace under which the armies of the invaders will leave the Golan Heights, Palestine, the land of the sanctities of the Muslims in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Gulf waters. This peace will make the region safe. It will also put legitimate interests on the right track. For he who wants to buy the oil of the Arabs, the oil of the Arabs is available to him and to anyone who will pay its price. Nevertheless, all sides must know that the oil of the Arabs does not exist in Arab lands to be a curse against the Arabs or to humiliate them or to make them suffer by their armies' occupation of their lands and sanctities.

All must understand that we do not accept a play on words. We do not accept a promise to solve this issue or that, and then the postponement of the question of Palestine based on this promise to the honorable people. We do not accept a promise, because we have so far not seen an honorable person who has reached a position of power in some Western countries. [applause] Honor means implementing your words. But if we are asked to wait based on a word of honor, then they have to wait as well. [applause]

That's enough. How many years have the people of Palestine been waiting? Half the people of Palestine have been annihilated by killings and massacres for the sake of Palestine; not only this, but also the battle between us and Iran was for the sake of Palestine; those who confronted their destiny or were martyred did so only for Palestine. All the discord taking place in the Arab homeland and the whole region between Arabs and Muslims stems from the question of Palestine, because they do not want the Arabs to be in a position where they can seriously direct themselves to liberate Palestine. This point has been lost on diplomacy for years.

The Arabs spent days and years in their conferences arguing over whether to use the wording of retrieving the rights of the Palestinians or retrieving the rights of the Arabs in Palestine, while they accomplished absolutely nothing. They talk about the liberation of Palestine. You cannot argue over words until the Zionists come and sit down in front of you and say: I am ready to negotiate; let us negotiate. But before actually achieving anything at all, they start arguing over semantics in statements they themselves as Arabs issue alone. Look at the weakness, look at the disgrace, and look at how inferior they feel.

During the Baghdad summit, we were practically begging them to provide minimal aid to Jordan so that it could remain steadfast and confront the terrorism; however, it is their intention to weaken Jordan, so that they can

squeeze a political stance out of it, which they were plotting. We also begged them to support the PLO and our people, whose blood is daily flowing over Palestine. We used to beg them, just beg them. I telephoned some of them after the conference ended. I would ask: My brother, I beg of you, please help Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], help King Husayn, help Jordan, help Palestine. I telephoned them. I saw one of them off to the door of his plane, and there I asked him: Please, my brother, perhaps you can help Jordan, perhaps you can help the Palestinians. Begging, just pure begging. From hundreds of millions of dollars, they only provided a very small and minimal amount. But to the occupation forces they graciously offered $12 or $14 billion—and these are the declared sums. Two billion of that would have been enough to support our people's struggle in Palestine for 10 more years.

One cannot talk diplomacy with such people. [applause] These people have had their self-esteem erased from their lives, humanity evaported from their consciences. They have become petrified. When we used to address some of them, it was as though we were speaking to a wall. They know no shame, and their eyes show no life regarding any existing cause.

This is an opportunity for the Arabs to cleanse their ranks of the corruption and filth. They must give justice its due so that God will be pleased with them in all issues of the nation. God is great. I thank you gentlemen. [applause]

Arab Unionists Request Release of European Workers

JN0311203190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Members of the General Secretariat of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions have appealed to leader President Saddam Husayn to grant a number of European workers in Iraq the freedom to leave the country. The leader president agreed to give the concerned European workers the freedom to travel or stay in Iraq as they wish. This came as an expression of appreciation from his excellency for the militant role of the Arab workers and their militant positions toward pan-Arab issues and issues of national and human liberation in the world.

Nation Seeks 'Urgent' Arab League Meeting

JN0311115390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—Iraq has called for an urgent Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis to discuss the protection of the the institution of the Arab League and prevent it from turning into a tool to serve the American scheme. An official source at the Foreign Ministry told INA that Iraq has declared that it does not recognize the move of the headquarters of the Arab League General Secretariat from Tunis to Cairo because the transfer procedures took place in illegally and through robbery and blackmail.

The Foreign Ministry source noted that the Arab League Council on 11 March 1990 adopted a resolution that includes several articles regarding the Arab League headquarters. This was achieved in an atmosphere of Arab accord and through the agreement of the member states' viewpoints. However, he added, the government of the Egyptian regime—which played a premeditated conspiratorial role in driving a wedge into the Arab ranks and peddling the American, Zionist scheme in our region during the meeting held by the president of that regime in Cairo on 9 and 10 August 1990—intended to undermine the common Arab action, divide the Arab countries, and destroy their national institution so as to control the Arab League and exploit it in the service of the hostile scheme to our Arab nation through a meeting in Cairo on 10 September 1990 to peddle the measures to move the headquarters without a legal basis.

The source added that this took place despite the fact that nine Arab countries boycotted the meeting—a fact that has great significance.

The source said: Ten Arab countries have asked—through official memoranda communicated to the Arab League General Secretariat—for a halt to the measures to move the headquarters that were peddled at the conspiratorial and illegal Cairo meeting. They ask for the headquarters to be kept in Tunis until the objective circumstances are available to enable the Arab countries to tackle the matter in such a way that it will maintain the unity of the institution of the Arab League and provide the requirements of its work in a pan-Aran atmosphere and through sound relations.

The Foreign Ministry official source continued: The Government of Egypt, however, and those involved in the American scheme, insisted on forcing some officials in the Arab League—in the absence of the secretary general after his resignation—to move to Cairo.

The official source concluded his statement saying that Iraq calls on the Arab countries to adopt a firm and responsible position on this issue, as well as to tackle it in a way that safeguards the institution of the Arab League and protects its unity from fragmentation. This can be done by holding an urgent meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Tunis to discuss the issue and to protect the institution of the Arab League from turning into a tool to serve the American scheme. In all cases, we believe that keeping the League in Tunis will serve the Arab nation at this stage. And if the plotters insist, it does not matter if the Arabs have a league headquartered in Tunis while the Zionized and the Americans have their league that will show the course they choose.

[Dated] Baghdad, 15 Rabi' al-Thani 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 3 November 1990.

Japan's Nakasone Arrives for Visit

Agenda Previewed

OW0411035490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0337 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 4 KYODO—Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone arrived in Baghdad on Saturday to discuss a peaceful settlement to the Persian Gulf crisis with President Saddam Husayn and other Iraqi oficials.

A delegation from Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party flew into Baghdad with Nakasone aboard a chartered Japan Airlines flight via Bangkok.

At Baghdad airport, Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information, and other senior officials welcomed the delegates.

Following a meeting with Japanese hostages here, Nakasone was to have talks with First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan on Sunday, kicking off a series of meetings with Iraqi leaders.

He is expected to hold talks with President Husayn on Monday in hopes of finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis sparked by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and gaining the release of foreign hostages.

Nakasone is also scheduled to meet here with Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on Monday.

Japanese sources said Iraq received Nakasone at an exceptionally high level, compared with former British Prime Minister Edward Heath, who was welcomed on his recent visit only by a deputy foreign minister.

In another sign of Nakasone's unusually warm welcome, he was to be hosted by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz at a dinner Sunday night, Japanese Embassy officials here said.

Meets Saddam

JN0411154490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Today Leader President Saddam Husayn received former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and his delegation. They discussed developments in the region, and ways to find a solution to the current tension in the region. Nakasone said that Japan is a peace-loving state and pursues a peaceful policy. He said that the Japanese people reject war and do not support sending forces to the Gulf. He expressed his belief that the Japanese people and their representatives will not agree to amend Japan's Constitution in this regard. He said that the roots of the current crisis extend to include other issues, stressing the need for the world to do its utmost to find a solution to the region's problems.

Leader Saddam Husayn reviewed the conspiracy carried out by the United States and some other states in the region against Iraq before 2 August. He said that Iraq wants peace and is eager to avert war and that, in order to achieve peace, all the region's problems should be solved on the basis of one set of standards and principles. The first of these problems to be addressed is the Palestine question, because the Israeli aggression against the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation is a permanent threat and source of instability in the region. The leader president also said that Iraq's peaceful approach was expressed in the initiative announced on 12 August.

The meeting lasted four hours, including a one-hour closed meeting between the leader president and Mr. Nakasone. The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, and the Japanese ambassador to Baghdad.

No Promises on Hostages

OW0511011490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0053 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 4 KYODO—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn made no clear promise on the release of Japanese hostages in a meeting Sunday with former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, but there are still hopes that some of them may be freed, according to members of the delegation accompanying Nakasone. "I asked (Husayn) to release all foreign hostages," Nakasone told reporters after a meeting with the Iraqi president in Baghdad. But he said Husayn did not say whether or not he would allow Japanese hostages to leave Iraq.

A member of the delegation from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said, however, 'We are in a process for the release. We are in a situation like that after the meeting between Husayn and former British Prime Minister Edward Heath' in early October, suggesting that some of the Japanese hostages may be freed.

Heath obtained a promise of the release of some British hostages in a meeting with Husayn and two days later some British citizens detained in Iraq were allowed to return to Britain.

Later in the day, Nakasone and delegation members met with Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan.

Ramadan, however, did not respond directly to Nakasone's request that Iraq free all foreign hostages. He was quoted as only saying that the Iraqi people are also hostages of the international economic blockade of their country.

Delegation leader Koko Sato told Ramadan that the Japanese detained by Iraq are people who have contributed to the construction of the Iraqi state.

Ramadan said Iraq has treated detained Japanese differently from British and Americans from a historical perspective, the sources said.

In response to Ramadan's criticism of the Japanese Government's plan to send Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel abroad, Sato said the SDF will not come to the Persian Gulf to resort to force because that is prohibited under the Japanese Constitution.

He also said the government-proposed U.N. peace cooperation bill which would allow the SDF to be sent overseas will not pass the Diet under the current situation in the Japanese parliament.

Nakasone and the delegation also met with National Assembly Chairman Sa'di Mahdi Salih.

Sato asked Salih for an opportunity to meet Japanese hostages. Salih replied that he will consult with the official in charge of the matter.

Stresses Peace Initiative

JN0411205790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—[Former Japanese Prime Minister] Yasuhiro Nakasone has said that the Gulf crisis is an Arab issue and should be resolved within an Arab framework.

In an interview with Baghdad Television tonight, Nakasone urged all world states to examine President Saddam Husayn's 12 August peace initiative for radically resolving all the Middle East region's problems and providing necessary solutions for them. He warned of the consequences of the growing military presence in the Arab territory and waters. He said that Japan wants to reach a formula to end the Gulf crisis peacefully and to avert the possibilities of a serious military confrontation.

The former Japanese prime minister expressed satisfaction with the results of his talks with President Saddam Husayn today. He said: We discussed several issues and spoke about sensitive issues, including the Gulf crisis and the means to tackle it peacefully.

Donates Medicine

JN0411210090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2027 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone handed a symbolic quantity of medicines to National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, as a gesture of the Japanese people's solidarity with the Iraqi people and their rejection of the siege that has been imposed on Iraq.

During their meeting with Sa'di Mahdi Salih today, Nakasone and the delegation of Japanese deputies accompanying him said they are happy to visit Iraq and its peace-loving people. Nakasone said that his mission is to search for peaceful means to end tensions in the region.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih reiterated Iraq's desire to attain security and peace in the world in general, and in the region in particular.

Meets Tariq 'Aziz

OW0511032390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0304 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 4 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said Sunday he was "very concerned" about Japanese hostages held by Iraq, and appealed for the release of the captives when he met Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

'Aziz told Nakasone he would convey the request to President Saddam Husayn and the National Assembly chairman Sa'di Mahdi Salih. But he repeated Baghdad's condition that Japan or Germany, and one permanent United Nations Security Council member other than the United States or Britain guarantee they will not attack Iraq.

And Nakasone, who met with Husayn earlier Sunday, indicated he expects an answer on the hostages to be given to him and the accompanying Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] entourage some time Monday.

In their meeting for two hours and 40 minutes, 'Aziz urged Tokyo to exert political influence on diffusing the tense situation in the Persian Gulf, saying "since Japan has offered financial assistance, can it not exhibit some political strength?"

Earlier, Husayn told Nakasone he wanted a guarantee that certain countries will not use military force against Iraq for its invasion and annexation of neighboring Kuwait last month. The first proposed guarantee would be by two permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. The second option is a guarantee by one permanent U.N. Security Council member out of the Soviet Union, France, or China, and either Japan or Germany. The other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council are the United States and Britain, prominent in the multinational force in the Gulf region.

'Aziz said Baghdad wants the guarantees against attack, as "there is a possibility the United States will propose to the U.N. Security Council the use of war or military action to resolve" the Gulf situation. The Iraqi foreign minister said the conditions are aimed at removing that possibility.

Nakasone remarked that he viewed the proposal "with great interest." Nakasone said further that he was "greatly interested in ('Aziz's) remarks to report to the president and National Assembly chairman" Japan's concern for the Japanese hostages.

'Aziz said he "understood well" the Japanese position from Sunday's meeting, and would contact Nakasone again.

Nakasone arrived in Baghdad on Sunday at the invitation of Iraq's ruling Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and the Organization of Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity in Iraq. A delegation from Japan's ruling LDP, led by Acting Secretary General Koko Sato, is accompanying Nakasone.

Nakasone is scheduled to meet Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat here Monday and Nakasone will return home Wednesday.

Meets Ramadan

JN0411194590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today received the Japanese parliamentary delegation led by Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, former Japanese prime minister.

The first deputy prime minister gave a presentation on the U.S.-Atlantic invasion of Arab territory and waters, which is being carried out as part of the anti-Iraq conspiracies mounted by the United States following the failure of a campaign by its agents and slaves that began in March to block Iraqi imports of raw materials and foodstuffs.

He ascribed the American anti-Iraq efforts and threats of aggression against Iraq to its refusal to be subservient to the U.S. Administration and its extortionist policies, or to subscribe to U.S. control of other peoples, their resources, and sovereignty.

Taha Yasin Ramadan emphasized that the escalating rhetoric and bluster by the United States and its allies have only served to stiffen the resolve of Iraq and all Arabs who have volunteered in the cause of their legitimate rights.

Ramadan pointed out that Japan is unduly accommodating to the U.S. Administration and its wrongful and inhuman decisions, and that the Japanese people know best about the aggressive policies of the United States, whose atomic bombs killed thousands of them.

The first deputy prime minister said President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative represents the best framework for an overall peace.

For their part, the Japanese delegation members said they would pursue their efforts to prevent a flareup and to promote peace, and that open dialogue rather than force is the best approach to resolve problems.

They noted that Iraq is now a major force with a significant and effective international role, as well as being a key regional power, thanks to its wise policies and the strides in development it has made.

Ramadan Meets Italian Parliamentarians

JN0411201390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Council Command [RCC] and first deputy prime minister, today received the Italian parliamentary delegation headed by Ravir Walafi [name as heard]. Ramadan said that the U.S. policy, led by Bush, is against humanity, human rights, and national freedom and will; that it is a hostile policy; and that it is aimed at controlling the world to further U.S. interests and ambitions—and involve its allies and agents in its aggressive designs and plans.

He added that the Arab masses, who have declared their support for Iraq and its leader, President Saddam Husayn, will strike at U.S. interests everywhere because they are fully aware of the U.S. goals against the them, of its plans to usurp their lands and loot their wealth, of its alliance with the Zionist entity which has usurped Palestine, made the Palestinian people homeless, continues the policy of aggression and expansion, and tortures the Palestinian people.

The RCC member added that justice is an ethical principle that should be applied to all mankind, and that it is unfair not to apply justice to the Palestinian people and deny them their natural and legitimate rights based on UN Security Council resolutions.

The Italian parliamentary delegation noted that Arab public opinion wants peace and is working for it, because peace is for humanity and its prosperity, and because war destroys mankind, and that it wants peace and supports every effort to achieve it.

Children Protest Food, Medicine Cutoff

JN0411203390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1528 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—Children of the Salah-al-Din Governorate have condemned Bush, Thatcher, and their allies over the economic blockade of Iraq and the cutoff of food, milk, and medicines.

They held a march, during which they handed over notes to the U.S. and UK Embassies in Baghdad protesting the inhuman and criminal withholding of food, medicines, and milk from the children of Iraq, declaring that they will serve as an example of steadfastness in the face of conspiracies against our homeland and people.

They chanted slogans of love for His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and pride in his leadership.

Levi Says Sanctions Would Mean World Surrender

TA0411124990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Sanctions against Israel would be perceived as a surrender of the entire world, including the United States, and I am positive that such a step will not be endorsed. These remarks were made today by Foreign Minister David Levi after the weekly cabinet meeting. Levi expressed confidence that the countries concerned will sober up and that we will be able to reach an understanding with our friends.

The foreign minister further opined that Israel should use persuasion when explaining its stand to the world. The cabinet decided today that the Foreign Ministry will issue a formal reaction to the UN secretary general's report. The reaction is expected to be a polite rejection of the report.

Foreign Ministry Disappointed With UN Report

TA0411175590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] The Israeli reaction to the UN secretary general's report on the conditions of the territories residents which was issued tonight notes Israel's disappointment with its biased approach. While the report's recommendations are directed at Israel alone, the secretary general did not see fit to call on the Palestinian side to cease all violence.

The unprecedented call to convene the countries which had cosigned the Geneva Convention is dangerous politicalization. Israel declares again that, according to international law, it is responsible for the management of the territories; this includes maintaining security and public order and ensuring the residents' welfare and prosperity.

Yosi 'Amihud, the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry spokesman, noted in his statement that while Israel had declared as far back as 1967 that the Fourth Geneva Convention does not apply to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, it decided to act in accordance with the humanitarian instructions of that Convention.

Israel believes that undue advantage was taken of an unfortunate incident—the Temple Mount events—which was the result of an act of provocation; this was done with the ultimate aim of impairing Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem and even depriving Israel of it.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen adds that Jerusalem's statement goes on to say that the protection of the residents of the territories presents no real problem, and that the UN secretary general himself has stated in his report that the task of guaranteeing their well-being depends on Israel's cooperation. In Israel's opinion, if the international community pursues this issue, only those who wish to create a linkage between the Israeli-Arab conflict and the Gulf conflict will profit. This was the Foreign Ministry statement made in the wake of this morning's debate at the cabinet meeting.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 4 November, in a report by Ze'ev Kohen, carries recorded remarks that Foreign Minister Levi made after the cabinet meeting, in which he addresses the UN secretary general's report: "What happened here is a shameful exploitation of this podium against the backdrop of a tragic incident. This is an imbalanced and biased accusation against Israel and, at the same time, an attempt to do more than accuse; it is an attempt to question—or perhaps deny—Israel's sovereignty in Jerusalem."]

Olmert Calls For Rejection of UN Proposal

TA0411122790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1140 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Report by Ze'ev Kohen from outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Excerpt] Most ministers during today's cabinet session were of the opinion that the UN secretary general's proposal should be rejected. An announcement to that effect will be published shortly by the Foreign Ministry. The secretary general's position is biased, the ministers said during the session, adding that it was also unfair. There is no justification for accepting it. In various areas throughout the world—India for example—crimes are being perpetrated without anyone making the slightest protest. Statements to this effect were also expressed by Health Minister Ehud Olmert, upon leaving the cabinet session.

[Begin recording] [Olmert] It is perfectly clear that the initiative regarding Israel was influenced by subjective political considerations and by certain circumstances that attempt to lay untenable responsibility and constraints on Israel. It is inconceivable that the government would walk into such a trap, with all respect for the UN secretary general's opinion.

[Kohen] But if Israel refuses to permit a delegation to visit, it risks having sanctions leveled against it.

[Olmert] Look, if one were to subscribe to the kind of logic behind that question, then Israel would have to agree with almost every potentially harmful proposal someone in the United Nations comes up with, because it is almost inevitable, I would say, that every proposal brought before the United Nations would be endorsed and work against us. The state must fight for certain principles. I believe that the United States will not be a partner to any proposal to impose sanctions against Israel. This does not have a majority. A majority of the U.S. public would not support that. Therefore, I feel that our firm and determined resolve on these issues will eventually bring a halt to these initiatives. The slightest hint of stuttering, hesitancy, or doubt will work against us. Therefore, I believe that an unequivocal stance is important and will in the long run be beneficial. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Shamir To 'Honor' Levi Letter; Exempts Jerusalem

TA0111123290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky and Alisa Odenheimer]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, pressed by the U.S. for clarifications, informed the Bush administration last week that he stands behind Foreign Minister David Levi's controversial October 2 letter to Secretary of State James Baker, in which he committed Israel not to settle Soviet immigrants over the Green Line, government officials confirmed last night. [passage omitted]

Shamir told THE JERUSALEM POST last night at a commemoration for Ze'ev Jabotinsky at Jerusalem's Binyeney Ha'uma that Israel would "honor" the Levi letter. The document includes a commitment that Israel will not settle Soviet Jews over the Green Line, states that Israel will regularly report its settlement activity to the U.S., and explicitly states that U.S. funds cannot be used in areas not under Israeli administration before June 5, 1967.

However, in response to a question, Shamir appeared to contradict the letter, saying that Israel pledged not to use U.S. funds in the "disputed territories," but that this does not include Jerusalem. "We understand that Jerusalem is not included in this category," Shamir said. [passage omitted]

Shamir Wants To Strike Letter of Guarantees

TA0411093290 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Nov 90 p 1,2

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During today's cabinet session, Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure, science and technology, will again raise the matter of Foreign Minister David Levi's letter to U.S. Secretary of State Baker regarding the U.S. housing loan guarantees.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau have denied the Tehiya faction's claim that Prime Minister Shamir promised them that during next week's visit by the U.S. team handling the loan guarantees he would revoke Levi's commitment to report to the U.S. Administration on any government settlement activity. The sources indicated that Shamir wants to take the whole matter of the letter of guarantees off the agenda, and therefore it is doubtful that he will allow a full debate on Ne'eman's proposals. [passage omitted]

Envoy to U.S. Discusses Immigrant Housing Loans

TA0211194190 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The United States has lifted all the obstacles put up over the guarantees for the $400 million loan for immigrant housing, Secretary of State James Baker informed Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador in Washington, this morning. A team from the U.S. Agency for International Development will leave for Israel in the coming days over implementing the loan. Our correspondent in Washington Ya'ir Stern interviewed Ambassador Shoval this evening on Israeli-U.S. relations:

[Begin recording] [Stern] Mr. Shoval, you have just returned from your first meeting with Secretary of State Baker. What did you discuss?

[Shoval] First, I am happy to announce that the secretary of state informed me that he has instructed the U.S. mission on the guarantees for the $400 million to leave for Israel in the coming days, and that is final. That affair has ended for the best. I thanked him in the name of the government and the state. I pointed to the fact that aliyah and immigrant absorption is Israel's top priority, and that we have always appreciated their aid for that subject.

[Stern] What were the other issues discussed?

[Shoval] It was an extended meeting which lasted almost one hour. We raised all the issues relating to the Middle East, the present crisis, and bilateral relations. Permit me to say that the conversation was very friendly and open. I found a great deal of understanding, as can only exist between friends. Even if there are differences—and there are differences, as is well known—they can be discussed if there are very close ties between countries, so that the talks do not cause the relations to be severed. I believe that is the case between us and the United States despite the ebbs and flows.

[Stern] How did Mr. Baker appear to you in your first meeting? Is he the tough cop type?

[Shoval] Who is afraid of tough cops? I do not think, however, that is a correct evaluation. As I said before, the meeting was very candid and very friendly on both sides, and I foresee not only cooperation but also communicative ties, if that is how we can describe them, which will be correct, and even more than that.

[Stern] Mr. Baker is leaving for the Middle East tomorrow and will not visit Israel. Was that point raised in your meeting, and was the upcoming U.S. moves in the Gulf brought up?

[Shoval] The visit was not raised at all. We respect any decision by the U.S. secretary of state on his various visits. I have no doubt that his remarks made several days ago in Los Angeles, that he will visit Israel in the near future, will be implemented.

[Stern] What about the upcoming U.S. moves in the Gulf? What was your impression on U.S. readiness to act in the near future?

[Shoval] We did not touch on those issues, which of course have repercussions for the State of Israel, but the decision is solely that of the United States.

[Stern] What next? How can we improve the trust between the two countries? How can we turn over a new leaf?

[Shoval] I would like to hope that the new leaf was turned this morning.

[Stern] Thank you very much, Mr. Shoval.

[Shoval] Thank you. [end recording]

Cabinet Sets Up Temple Mount Affairs Committee

TA0411121990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry will soon issue a public response to the UN secretary general's report. That was decided in today's weekly cabinet session. The response will probably reject the conclusions of the report but will not be worded harshly. Our political correspondent Natan Guttman is at the Prime Minister's Office, and here is his report:

The cabinet has decided to set up a special Ministerial Committee on Temple Mount Affairs. It is being set up following the Zamir report recommendations, which explicitly ask for it. Religious Affairs Minister Avner Sciaki, who asked to be the head of the committee, will not be given the slot. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, himself, will head the committee. His deputies on the committee will be the two deputy prime ministers, Moshe Nisim and David Levi. Additional members will be the justice minister, the police affairs minister, and the religious affairs minister. That is the composition of the Ministerial Committee on Temple Mount Affairs which was set up in view of the Zamir commission report.

Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo today briefed the cabinet about the implementation of the Zamir report conclusions. No personal conclusions were discussed.

Let us now return to the issue with which the cabinet session opened: Foreign Minister David Levi's briefing on the UN secretary general's report on East Jerusalem. Minister Levi said that the Foreign Ministry will make a public comment on the report soon. It has not been prepared yet, but it will in essence be a rejection of the report and the request to summon a meeting of the signatories to the Geneva Convention. It will be what is termed a polite rejection, not aggressive at all. It will only explain that Israel is not accepting the report.

As for the issue of assurances: Minister Yuval Ne'eman of the Tehiya Party asked whether the commitment to report on construction in the territories includes reporting before the fact. Minister Levi replied that the report would only be made after the fact, not before—only after things have been done. We are hiding nothing, the foreign minister said. Prime Minister Shamir concluded: We have already notified the Americans that we support Levi's letter to Baker. The U.S. delegation is due here in the next few days to finalize the issue. The prime minister also asked that the cabinet not hold a lengthy discussion of the UN secretary general's report, and that it make do with the foreign minister's briefing.

Religious Affairs Minister Avner Sciaki also said that our information campaign abroad is lacking, and that the matter of the Arab provocation in the Temple Mount incident was not made clear enough. These are the initial details from today's cabinet session.

Sharon Given Freedom on Land, Building Contracts

TA0511091690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Nov 90 pp 1, 8

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer and Herb Keinon]

[Excerpts] The cabinet yesterday gave Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon carte blanche to apportion land and building contracts to contractors as he sees fit, without the benefit of an open tender. [passage omitted]

The decision enables the housing ministry to apportion land and building contracts through "closed tenders," or tenders in which only a select group of contractors may participate. It states that the land will be awarded on the basis of the amount of the government-purchase-guarantee per housing unit requested by the contractor.

The ministry will also have the right, "in special cases," to apportion land and building contracts without the benefit of tenders. There is no definition of "special case," nor is there any limit to the amount of land that can be distributed in this manner. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 5 November reports "that in reaction to the violent opposition to yesterday's cabinet decision to grant the Construction and Housing Ministry sweeping authority to apportion building contracts to contractors without tenders, Minister Sharon said that this has been the practice since the establishment of the state and that 1 million apartments were built in this way."

200,000 Soviet Immigrants Expected for 1990

TA0511093390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[Text] An estimated 70,000 to 75,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants are expected to arrive in November and December, the aliya cabinet was told yesterday, bringing the projected number for 1990 to nearly 200,000.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 5 November adds: "Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that the Ministerial Committee on Aliyah has learned that at least 400,000 immigrants are expected to arrive in 1991."]

The cabinet was also told that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will provide two bases in the south and two holiday centers in Ashqelon and 'Akko to house olim [immigrants].

Some 122,000 Soviet immigrants have arrived since the beginning of the year, and October was the first month in which more than 20,000 arrived.

The anticipated increase is due to apprehension among Soviet Jews that the ground is burning under their feet, Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz said after the weekly meeting.

"The aliya wave is growing month by month, because the Jews feel they must do today what they may not be able to do tomorrow," Peretz said. "The Soviet economy is collapsing, and this means the ground is fertile for all kinds of revolutions. Nobody can predict what the outcome of such revolutions might be."

The Treasury approved payment of NIS [new Israeli shekels] 800,000 to the IDF for the housing facilities. The four locations, with new mobile homes to be installed, will provide about 4,500 living units.

The cabinet was told that negotiations on direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv were continuing, but no date was given for the start of these flights.

Even without direct flights, the three existing transit points in Europe can handle up to 50,000 immigrants a month, Jewish Agency head Simha Dinitz said last week.

In related developments, the cabinet decided to import steel and to subsidize the country's two steel firms to enable them to compete with imports.

Education Minister Zvulun Hammer told his staff yesterday that some 43,000 adults were studying Hebrew in 350 ulpanim [Hebrew language classes], compared to 5,000 last year.

Rabin Makes 'Stinging Attack' on Labor Circles

TA0511074590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Nov 90 p 8

[Report by Michal Yudelman and Sarah Honig]

[Text] It would be a tragic mistake to give up even one centimeter of the territories without a political settlement, former defence minister Yitzhaq Rabin said yesterday, in his most stinging attack on Labor's "dovish" circles.

Rabin, Shim'on Peres's main contender for party leader, spoke at a meeting of Labor's "hawkish" Mainstream group, where he and other speakers stressed that the party must highlight its differences not only with the Likud, but also with the radical left and certain elements in Labor which support one-sided withdrawal from the territories.

Rabin and others expressed confidence that placing Labor in the center of the political map will enable the party to win public support and return to power.

"A one-sided withdrawal without a political settlement would encourage more violence, more aggression. It would be a demonstration of weakness on Israel's part and of Israel's inability to cope with the intifada and terrorism.

"It would be a historic mistake which would sabotage the chances to achieve peace if (the Palestinians) feel that by violence they could drive us out of the territories without a political settlement or even a partial one."

Rabin stressed that Labor is ready to compromise, "which means that I'm willing to renounce that which I believe I deserve, otherwise it would not be a compromise."

He listed the points which sharply distinguish Labor from the left: "'No' to negotiations with the PLO as an organization; 'no' to a Palestinian state; and 'no' to the notion of returning to the 1967 borders."

He also said "'no' to a 'Greater Israel'" but asserted that Greater Jerusalem will remain united under Israeli sovereignty.

Apart from a security border with Jordan, protected by the Jordan Valley and by settlements on the mountain slopes of Judaea and Samaria and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bases, all the rest, "especially those areas inhabited by most of the 1.5 million Palestinians, is open to negotiation," Rabin said.

Mainstream circle chairman MK [Knesset Member] Shlomo Hilel lashed out at the left wing in the party whom he charged with deviating from the party platform and with "casting it out of the circle of activity, leaving the power in the hands of the national failure government."

Hilel said that annexing 1.5 million Arabs would be a disaster for Israel and said that it was worth making concessions in order to achieve sovereignty over a united Jerusalem.

Shamir Appoints New Arab Affairs Adviser

TA0411094690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Nov 90 p 8

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir last week appointed Dr. Alexander Bligh as his adviser on Arab affairs, replacing Eli'ezer Tzafrir. Bligh will work under Economics and Planning Minister David Magen, who is responsible for policy on minorities. Bligh, 41, is a Middle East expert who served for the past three years as deputy adviser to the prime minister on Arab affairs.

Editorial Urges Cabinet To Improve U.S. Ties

TA0411110590 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Nov 90 p 17

[Editorial: "Back to the Tracks"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration has realized that Yitzhaq Shamir is not, after all, the target of its attack in the Middle East. That is why it has decided to get off the

high horse on which the Israeli Government forced it after the Temple Mount affair.

It is a tactical decision and free of any emotional commitment, which President Bush did not have in the first place. A second front against Israel will not help Bush's struggle against Saddam Husayn. The Temple Mount affair has turned into a struggle over prestige, important in itself, but not more than that. As such, it is dying. It seems that the U.S. Administration has decided that now is not the time to put the Jerusalem issue up for international discussion. The Baker-Shoval meeting proves that things are back on a businesslike track.

At the same time, it is impossible to ignore the frequency of the misunderstandings between Israel and the United States. It is also impossible to ignore the U.S. reactions—which are becoming more nervous and more severe with time—when the issue on the agenda is a condemnation of Israel, or a joining with those who condemn Israel.

As long as the Palestinian problem remains unresolved, and as long as Shamir believes that time is on his side and that all he has to do is to let it pass without taking any real action, Israel will remain in conflict with the United States, which views cooperation with Arab countries such as Egypt, Jordan, and Syria as a part of an overall plan to remove the USSR from this area.

A political initiative—any move Israel makes to solve this problem—will finally win it the points it needs so badly in U.S. public opinion, and, consequently, will help calm relations with the U.S. Administration.

Grenade Explodes in Tel Aviv Market; No Damage

TA0411101490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] A shock grenade, of the same type used by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], exploded in the Tel Aviv Wholesalers Market approximately one hour ago. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. Our Tel Aviv police affairs correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reported that the grenade was apparently thrown because of a quarrel between two stall owners in the market. The police combed the area and found nothing suspicious.

Milo Declares Jerusalem 'Full Police District'

TA0511084990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Nov 90 pp 1, 8

[Report by Ron Kampeas and Michael Rotem]

[Text] Jerusalem's police will be reinforced by 350 men as a result of last night's announcement by Police Minister Roni Milo that the capital will now be a full police district.

The change comes on the heels of Milo's announcement last week of plans to restructure the police based on the recommendations in the Zamir commission report on the Temple Mount riot.

Milo also reconfirmed yesterday that the restructuring will include personnel changes, although they have yet to be announced.

Two of the three men coming in for the sharpest criticism in the Zamir report, Jerusalem Area Commander Arye Bibi and Southern District Commander Rahamim Comfort, will be immediately affected by the promotion of Jerusalem from area to district.

Bibi, whose rank was deputy commander, effectively no longer has a function, unless Milo retains a Jerusalem area subservient to the new district. Milo has yet to announce the commander of the new district, who will hold the rank of full commander. Commander Meshulam 'Amit, now head of the Border Police, has been mentioned as a possible candidate. Comfort, whose Southern District included Jerusalem, now has a considerably smaller and less important command. It will be headquartered in Beersheba and will include the Lakhish, Negev, Judaea and Gaza areas. Comfort is due to retire on April 1, 1991, in any case.

Milo has not yet announced any conclusions regarding Police Inspector-General Ya'aqov Terner, the third man criticized in the report. But he has said that the restructuring will "affect not only Jerusalem, but the whole country."

Palestinian Sources Warn of 'Terrorist' Missions'

TA0511083190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Nov 90 pp 1, 8

[Report by Bradley Burston]

[Text] A wave of Lebanon-style terrorist missions in Israel and the territories may shape the coming phase of the intifada, Palestinian sources told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

Kidnappings, sophisticated arson attacks and bombings, along with stepped-up attempts at "personal terrorism," such as knifings of Israelis are reportedly under consideration, the sources said.

The possible escalation of tactics may reflect ongoing PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] reassessments of the results of increased Palestinian violence since the Temple Mount riot early last month.

In some quarters, the massive IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and police response to knife assaults on Israelis has been seen as a Palestinian victory in itself, taxing security forces' resources to the limit in order to implement closure of the territories and the subsequent screening and surveillance of Palestinian workers.

The spiraling momentum of attacks, IDF response, and rekindled unrest among the territories' population is credited by some Palestinians with having returned the intifada to the world's attention.

Discussion of new terror measures also may reflect the relative unity that has bound the once-feuding PLO and Islamic fundamentalist factions since the Temple Mount incident.

A number of factors—from a sense of isolation in the wake of support for Iraq to such local incidents as the Gaza prison-cell hanging last Friday of longtime Fatah activist 'Abd al-'Ati al- Za'anin—have smoothed the way to the formation of a coalition between such traditional antagonists as the secular-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the fundamentalist Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

The reduced polarization and the unfolding events may also have silenced voices calling for restraint in the use of weapons.

The pressure for greater escalation of terror is also suggested by PLO official Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's recent statement that "the war of knives is only the beginning of the conflict the entire Palestinian people will wage to defend the capital of its homeland, its holy sites and its very existence."

IDF officials question the ability of terror groups to carry out Hizballah-like terrorist missions either in the territories or within the Green Line. They also do not believe the disparate Palestinian groups could stay together for the length of time required to carry out such attacks. The officials point out that cracks are already appearing, such as the stabbing in a village near Nabulus Saturday, apparently by fundamentalists, of activist Dr. 'Afif Barabra, reportedly because of his contacts with the Israeli left.

But, as security analysts have observed, even if the threat to escalate the level of conflict proves an empty one, the military is well aware of the high price it must pay in morale and resources to meet the challenge posed by even false alarms.

One IDF officer, reflecting on years of service in south Lebanon, observed yesterday: "We've known for some time that it requires constant effort and constant vigilance to keep the Green Line from turning into a version of the security zone."

Roadblocks Sideline Arabs on Way to Tel Aviv

TA0411072790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Police set up roadblocks around the greater Tel Aviv area last night in a large-scale security operation. Vehicles were closely inspected in four districts throughout the country. The head of the police Operations Department personally supervised the operation. Our police affairs correspondent 'Ido Baum reports:

From yesterday afternoon until the late hours of the night the police implemented a wide-scale security deployment. Police spokesmen described the deployment as stepped-up routine security. Police roadblocks were set up in four districts around the greater Tel Aviv area. There were roadblocks at almost every intersection and every Israeli and non-Israeli car was checked. Cars carrying Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip were pulled over to the side, and their occupants were asked to produce identity cards and permits to stay in Israel. The cars and the Arab passengers' personal belongings were closely examined. Whoever was found without the necessary permits was held for investigation.

The ring of roadblocks caused long and inescapable traffic jams on the way into the Tel Aviv area. The police from the Shefa and Hasharon Subdistricts did most of the work. These two subdistricts, in effect, surround the Tel Aviv District, and most traffic routes leading to Tel Aviv pass through them. The operation was under the personal supervision of Commander Asaf Hefetz, head of the police Operations Department. He was at the scene all night and reviewed the roadblocks.

Roadblocks were also set up this morning in the Tel Aviv and Central areas, but are they are fewer and less stringent than last night.

Territories See General Strike, Disturbances

Balfour Declaration Anniversary

TA0211170690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] There was a general strike in the territories today to mark the 73d anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. A curfew was clamped on several locations in the Gaza Strip. Five young people sustained light injuries when shot by rubber bullets during unrest in Gaza's Rimal neighborhood, which began when worshipers left the mosques after Friday prayers.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] this morning prevented youths from the territories from reaching Jerusalem and imposed a curfew on Tulkarm. The curfew on Nabulus continues.

Unrest Protests Detainee's Death

TA0311134590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] In disturbances in the northern Gaza Strip this morning, one man was killed and some 40 were wounded. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the unrest began when the suicide of a security detainee in Gaza jail became known. The dead man is Muhammad 'Izzat al-Basyuni, 19, of Bayt Hanun. His body was brought to al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza, but was snatched away by the dead man's friends and was buried. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating the circumstances of his death.

Official sources reported that 43 local Arabs were wounded, five seriously, in the unrest. Ten people who sustained slight injuries have already been sent home. The IDF imposed a curfew on Bayt Hanun, and the Jabalyah

and al-Shati' refugee camps, as well as Gaza town's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. There were also reports of unrest in other locations in the Gaza Strip.

Disturbances in West Bank

TA0511124290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Nov 90 pp 1, 8

[Report by Matthew Seriphs]

[Excerpt] Violent clashes continued for the second consecutive day in the Gaza Strip yesterday, and Palestinian sources said at least 98 people were wounded. The army said 86 protesters were lightly injured.

In Rafah, according to other Palestinian sources, troops fired tear gas into the grounds of al-Quds secondary school, and about 150 schoolgirls were taken to the Unrwa [UN Relief and Works Agency] clinic in the town for treatment for gas inhalation. The army said it did not have enough time to check reports of this incident.

The army closed the Strip to journalists unaccompanied by representatives of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman's office yesterday.

A Palestinian journalist who was in Rafah reported that at 6 a.m., 500 youths gathered in the town's al-Bahr Street. At 7:30 a.m., troops, after being stoned by youths from the roofs of al-'Awdah mosque and the school, fired tear gas into the school.

An army helicopter dropped what the journalist described as "nerve gas" on the demonstrators. "My eyes were not affected, but I became very tired after 10 minutes. The canisters are green, with Hebrew written on them, and I remember the army used them at the beginning of the intifada," he said.

Earlier Palestinian reports put the day's total injured at 98 in continuing clashes which started Saturday following the news of the death of a prisoner in Gaza's central jail. Prison authorities said the man hanged himself, but his family and other Gaza residents rejected that account of the death.

The army said 86 were wounded, but of these, 70 have already been released from hospital and those remaining were only lightly injured.

According to preliminary Unrwa estimates, 150 persons were wounded yesterday, including 94 from gunshot wounds, 70 of these in Rafah, 20 in Dayr al-Balah, and four in Bayt Hanun. The others were wounded by plastic-coated metal bullets, rubber bullets, tear gas and beatings, the organization said. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 5 November, in a report by Mikhal Sela' and On Levi on page 3, adds that "the West Bank was relatively quiet, with only one incident in which soldiers used live ammunition.

["An official military source reported that in the course of a chase after stone throwers in Halhul, a local tried to throw a rock at a soldier from short range. The soldier fired and wounded the Halhul resident slightly. The man was transferred to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem." The report notes that "the official Army source who reported the injury could not provide details about the circumstances of the stone throwing while the city was under curfew."

[It is also reported that "in the course of disturbances in the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp near Nabulus, 32-year-old Fu'ad Abu-Khalifah was hurt by a tear gas canister. This was reported by the al-Ittihad Hospital staff in Nabulus." Also, "Palestinian sources reported disturbances in Silat al-Harithiyah, the Tulkarm refugee camp, and other places, as well as detentions in various locations."]

85 Percent of Gas Masks Distributed

TA0311202290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Some 3.4 million gas masks have been distributed during the three-week operation, the IDF [Israel Defense Spokesman] told our correspondent Karmela Menashe. That means that 85 percent of the gas masks were disseminated. Several new locations will be set up in the coming days for those who did not pick up their masks on time. The authorities are now preparing for the distribution of gas masks to tourists who will be in Israel for more than six months and for foreigners with work permits.

Poll Shows Rise for Right, Decline for Left

TA0211110090 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Nov 90 p 5

["Special" PORI poll for HADASHOT]

[Text] The escalation of terrorism and the Likud government's firm stand in the face of U.S. pressures have led to a rightist trend among the voting populace. That is shown in a nationwide PORI poll conducted approximately a week ago.

To the question of: "Which party would you have voted for had elections to the Knesset been held today," the respondents answered:

	Current Vote	Aug Vote	12th Knesset Vote
	[answers in percentages]		
Likud	34.1	31.3	31.1
Rightist parties	11.4	10.8	7.0
Alignment	26.1	26.2	30.0
Leftist parties	11.5	11.7	8.6
Total Likud and Right	45.5	42.1	38.1
Total Alignment and Left	37.6	37.9	38.6

The poll involved a representative cross-section that included 1,200 eligible men and women voters above the age of 18, who were interviewed privately at home.

King Returns After Talks With Oman's Qabus

JN0211163190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned to the homeland this afternoon following a working visit to the fraternal Sultanate of Oman. During the visit his majesty held talks with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman on the Gulf crisis and the current Arab situation. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Arrives With Message From Saddam

JN0311171890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Amman this evening on a visit to Jordan that will last several days.

In a press statement at Amman airport, Tariq 'Aziz said: I have been entrusted by President Saddam Husayn with conveying to his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, an oral message from his excellency concerning the brotherly relations between the two fraternal states and the developments in the region.

Answering a question, Tariq 'Aziz said: We still have not seen any new element from which we can draw new conclusions. The U.S. Administration, together with the British Government, is still using the language of threats and escalation to create an atmosphere that will effectively obstruct the efforts which the international community wishes to extend for the sake of achieving a quick and comprehensive peace settlement to the situations in the region.

He pointed out that many states, which have recently shown some interest in the cordial Arab position, have called for dealing with all issues in the region.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed that the massacres that took place in holy Jerusalem were an indication of the importance of the Palestine question as the central issue for the Arabs, and that the "Israeli" aggression and occupation is the principal source of threat to security and stability in the region. However, he said, the U.S. and British Governments are trying to suppress such trends and divert attention to one single issue, because of the fact that it is connected to their colonial interests.

He stressed that the international community has begun to be aware of many facts. He said: There are expressions here and there—official and unofficial. We must follow these expressions, and we are in fact following them in order to make them, along with the objective Arab voice, the direction to treat the situation.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was received upon arrival by Marwan al-Qasim, Jordan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

'Aziz Meets King Husayn

JN0311192190 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Excerpt] At al-Nadwah Palace this evening, His Majesty King Husayn received Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who handed over a letter from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn dealing with brotherly relations and regional developments. His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and the Iraqi ambassador were present at the meeting. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Departs

JN0311214090 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz left Amman this evening. He told our political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab about his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn:

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] Would you comment on your meeting with his majesty the king, during which you handed him a letter from his brother His Excellency President Saddam?

['Aziz] I was honored to meet his majesty the king and give him a letter from his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. The letter, as I pointed out when I arrived, addresses the close ties between the two brotherly countries and regional developments. I briefed his majesty on our recent contacts in Baghdad during visits made by a number of official and nonofficial figures to Iraq. His majesty, on his part, acquainted me with the outcome of his contacts for me to communicate this to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, both in regard to visits to Amman and his majesty's visits to a number of countries in the region. This has been the practice between Iraq and Jordan, exchanging information and comparing notes on our respective contacts in the interest of a common assessment to advance the Arab cause. We in Iraq and Jordan seek to work out an objective, responsible Arab position that meets the objectives of the Arab nation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

King Leaves for Official Visit to France

JN0411122790 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] His majesty the king left for Paris today on a working visit during which he will hold talks with French President Francois Mitterand and other senior officials. Talks are expected to focus on the situation in the Gulf as well as bilateral relations between Jordan and France.

U.S. Navy Reportedly Harasses Sudanese Ship

JN0311113490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Nov 90 pp 1, 20

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Text] The U.S. Navy's harassment and provocative and disturbing searches of ships headed for al-'Aqabah Port and carrying cargo bound for Jordan are no longer new.

The recent report by the famous British insurance company, Lloyds, said that from the beginning of the Gulf crisis 3,000 ships had reached the region after being searched, of which 250 were thoroughly searched in a disturbing and odious fashion. Of course, these ships were heading for al-'Aqabah Port. About 10 were either forced to return to the ports from which they came or were directed to other ports.

Among the cases of disturbing searches of ships that violate the economic embargo imposed on Iraq—not Jordan as we know—is the harassment to which the Sudanese ship Blue Nile was subjected. The ship was coming from Europe to al-'Aqabah Port on 4 October 1990. On the first occasion, the young American lieutenant on board a U.S. warship at the Strait of Tiran prevented the ship from heading for al-'Aqabah claiming that the ship documents were unclear!! Consequently, the ship headed for Port Sudan instead.

Following the necessary contacts, the ship sailed again toward al-'Aqabah on 28 October 1990. It was stopped for the second time, after being subjected to a provocative search by the American lieutenant, and redirected to Port Sudan on the same pretext!!

After the ship agents in Jordan held an intensive round of contacts with the U.S. Embassy in Amman and the authorities concerned, the ship set sail for al-'Aqabah for the third time. When it reached the Strait of Tiran, the American lieutenant went on board and in his usual provocative manner searched the ship and went further to search all papers and private quarters of the Sudanese staff. He later allowed the ship to proceed. Blue Nile anchored at al-'Aqabah Port at 0200 GMT on Friday to unload and then continue on its way.

What is strange is that the Sudanese ship was allowed to cross the Strait of Tiran the third time although the ship staff, cargo, and documents had not changed!! Why was the ship denied earlier entry on the claim that its documents were unclear though 28 days later the documents became clear??!!

We, in turn, stress what Mrs. Marjat Rasi, chairwoman of the committee to reinforce the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 661, has said in regard to the need to control the U.S. Navy's actions against Jordan!!

U.S. Navy Bars Polish Ship From Al-'Aqabah

JN0411113490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Nov 90 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Caroline Faraj]

[Text] Amman—American warships in the Red Sea have again intercepted cargo vessels heading for the Port al-'Aqabah and are reported to be still barring at least one of them from entering the Aqaba Gulf zone.

One of the cargo vessels, Ibn-Zaydun, which was laden with Jordan-bound goods orginating from the Egyptian port of "Port Said" was intercepted and throughly searched while its captain and crew were held in their cabins, according to shipping sources.

They said that goods on the vessel, which sails under French flag and carries a French crew, were loaded under the supervision of the American military before setting sail towards al-'Aqabah.

The French captain and his crew tried to reason with the American naval officers without success and finally had to call the Paris- based French Association of Navigators. The association officials intervened in the matter and ensured the ship continued the voyage to al-'Aqabah where the vessel docked Friday morning.

According to the sources, a Polish vessel carrying 475 tonnes of goods imported by Jordanian merchants and furniture for the Polish Embassy in Amman is still outside territorial waters because the American Navy insists on barring its entry into the Aqaba Gulf.

The Americans claim that the vessel carries spare parts for a Diesel engine which, they say, are not destined for Jordan. The ship owners have now approached Minister of Transport Nabil Abu-al-Huda to intervene with the concerned authorities and secure the ship's release since it carries only goods imported by Jordan.

Shipping sources say that goods on the Polish vessel are not kept in containers and so they are liable to damage if the Americans insist on barring the vessel from continuing its voyage to the port of al-'Aqabah.

The Sudanese Blue Nile vessel succeeded Friday in arriving at the port city of al-'Aqabah following three unsuccessful attempts to dock because of the American Navy's interception.

The Sudanese vessel carried goods to Jordan from European ports, according to the sources.

According to Lloyds Insurance Company in London 3,000 vessels have been subjected to search by the American Navy since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis in August.

Prince Hasan Interviewed on Diplomacy, Aid

JN0411213190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1912 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by Ibrahim Shahzadah in Amman on 4 November, broadcast jointly with Paris al-Sharq Radio—recorded]

[Text] [Shahzadah] Radio Jordan, broadcasting from Amman, and the al-Sharq Radio, broadcasting from Paris, extend their greetings to His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent. Your Highness, would you like to tell us

about the continuing Jordanian efforts on both the Arab and international scenes concerning the Gulf crisis?

[Hasan] I thank you my honorable brother, and I thank the friendly French for asking this question while his majesty is in the French capital. It is very obvious that the Arab and international approaches for finding a political solution to the Gulf crisis must meet at one clear point; namely, international legitimacy and the UN resolutions. UN Resolution 660 explicitly mentions the need for applying the principle of withdrawal from occupied territories, that is the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. But it also mentions in its third operative paragraph the need for finding direct dialogue between Kuwait and Iraq, and clearly points to a role for the Arab League. It seems to me that there has recently been focus on the basic point, which is at the center of all international initiatives in these nervous days when the intensity of the crisis is being heightened. It seems to me that this main point; namely the principle of withdrawal, has been addressed through a statement by Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'dun Hammadi [as heard]. Referring to the principle of withdrawal, he stressed that Iraq is clearly demanding discontinuation of the aggression against if this principle is to be applied. Concerning the general situation in the region, one knows, through all the material loss he sees—whether in the occupied Palestinian territories or not—the loss of life and the exacerbation of the situation through the continuation of clashes. The world seems to be—I would not say indifferent, because there is activity by the General Assembly and the UN secretary general—but to date, it will not agree to move swiftly and effectively to find at least a link between the principle of containing and addressing all aspects of the Gulf crisis, as it is called, and the other hotbeds of tension, including Lebanon. I think that this delicate stage makes us only days or at most weeks away from an armed clash, and hence the importance of political moves on the international level, as reflected by the French-Soviet initiative and the moves of the Arab countries, foremost of which is the position and role of his majesty.

[Shahzadah] Your Highness Prince Hasan, how far is the international community responsive on the economic damage inflicted on Jordan as a result of the Gulf crisis?

[Hasan] The current approach is recognition that Jordan must be dealt with in a fair manner, but the measures are slow. There is commitment in principle to compensate Jordan for the major disaster that has befallen its economy. There is the issue of the evacuees—three quarters of a million evacuees, including 180,000 Jordanian-Palestinian citizens returning from the Gulf. Up to this date, these promises have largely remained as such. But, regarding direct support for the Jordanian economy, there is a report by the UN secretary general; it will be discussed by the EC on 5 November, tomorrow, during the Rome meeting. Jordan's stability, of course, effectively helps stability in the region. One would ask therefore, why this constant harassment? Why the inspection of ships at the Straits of Tiran? And so on. We have great hope that we will see further positive changes in the positions of the states that have recently acknowledged the need for supporting and backing Jordan.

[Shahzadah] Sir, Radio Jordan, broadcasting from Amman, and al- Sharq Radio, broadcasting from Paris, extend their many thanks to His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, for giving them the opportunity to speak to you.

[Hasan] Thanks, honorable brother.

[Shahzadah] You are welcome, sir.

UK's Heseltine Speaks on Gulf, Economic Aid

JN0511103490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
5 Nov 90 pp 1,17

[Text] Amman—Former British Defense Secretary Mr. Michael Heseltine has said he has held talks with His Majesty King Husayn, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim on several of the region's issues, especially the Gulf crisis.

Referring to a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis, Mr. Heseltine said this is what everyone hopes for, because use of force will be a tragedy. He emphasized the need for the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait.

Addressing a news conference here yesterday, Mr. Heseltine also spoke about the effects on Jordan as a result of implementing UN resolutions. He said these effects must be given serious consideration and the full reports on the enormous costs borne by Jordan must find response in the West.

Mr. Heseltine said Jordan has assumed an international responsibility in the most terrible circumstances, and spent its own money without restriction, condition, or guarantee of immediate compensation on a humanitarian cause resulting from the influx of large numbers of non-Jordanians from Iraq and Kuwait. Mr. Heseltine said: There are clear-cut figures on the costs borne by Jordan. These are not Jordanian figures, but estimates which were made and confirmed by foreign quarters, including the United Nations.

Mr. Heseltine said the Jordanian economy cannot endure the sudden deficit resulting from spending tens of millions of dinars from its own funds for several days on an unexpeted human tragedy.

Mr. Heseltine noted that Jordan is now implementing the UN resolutions and that this is an additional burden on its economy. According to estimates, he said, Jordan's economic loss could range from 20 to 40 percent of its gross national product. No economy in the world has sufferred to such an extent, he added.

Mr. Heseltine affirmed that everyone must realize the damages caused to Jordan and the importance of paying the compensation agreed on.

Mr. Heseltine said that Jordan has so far received only minimum payments. Cash payments, he added, will solve the problem in the end. However, he emphasized the need not to ignore this important matter and he called on the world community to expedite payment of the aid promised to Jordan.

Mr. Heseltine said that whoever seeks the stability of the region should guarantee that Jordan continues to abide by the blockade and help the Jordanian economy.

Mr. Heseltine, who is a member of the British House of Commons, is also one of the candidates to replace British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher as leader of the Conservative Party.

Western 'Guests' From Baghdad Arrive 4 Nov

JN0411211790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2104 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Fourteen Germans and Belgians who were hosted by Iraq arrived at Queen 'Alya International Airport this evening. They are scheduled to spend the night in Amman before leaving tomorrow.

Memo Sent to Commerce Body on 'Harassment'

JN0411140490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Nov 90 p 10

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian National Committee represented in the International Chamber of Commerce has demanded that the UN Security Council issue instructions to the U.S. authorities and the commander of the U.S. fleet in the Straits of Tiran to consider goods included in the manifests presented by captains of merchant ships bound for al-'Aqabah as Jordanian goods destined for local Jordanian consumer markets. In the meantime, the fleet will be permitted to inspect some of these goods if it so wishes. However, it will not have the right to order ships back, thereby preventing them from proceeding to the Port of al-'Aqabah.

This came in a memo submitted by Mr. Tawfiq Qa'war, dean of Jordanian shipping agents, to the Chamber in Paris in which he tackled the subject of the forcible inspection of ships by U.S. naval units in the Straits of Tiran in accordance with the Security Council resolution calling for the economic siege and blockade of Iraq.

The memo pointed to the greater calamities that might befall Jordanian commercial, industrial, shipping, and other sectors in the future, since ships are prevented from proceeding to the Port of al- 'Aqabah several times every week. The memo says: If the question of permitting or not permitting ships to proceed to al-'Aqaba is left solely in the hands of the U.S. commander, then this would place the Jordanian economy in these difficult circumstances at the mercy of the commander.

Experts on international law and UN regulations have asserted that these recurrent incidents constitute a violation of UN Security Council Resolution 661. They also explained that the resolution has been turned from a boycott of Iraqi goods to a semi-boycott of Jordanian goods.

The Jordanian memo reviews the present situation of the commercial and industrial sector in Jordan, noting that there is a tangible shortage of consumer goods and essential raw materials for industrial production, which has been greatly affected by the loss of its natural market—Iraq. The memo says that instead of the United States and its allies honoring their obligations to compensate Jordan for the great losses it has incurred for strictly abiding by the boycott resolution, we see that these states in particular are intentionally damaging the Jordanian economy for obvious political reasons.

Mr. Qa'war said that he met with the chairman of the Jordanian National Committee and its secretary and a member of the U.S. National Committee as well as the assistant secretary of the International Chamber of Commerce. They all showed understanding of Jordan's unenviable position. It was agreed to submit another brief memo for discussion by the Board of Directors of the Chamber in order to take the appropriate decision.

It was also agreed that a representative of the U.S. National Committee, who has understood the seriousness of the situation, should hold contacts on behalf of the committee in the U.S. capital to see what can be done on the personal and official level and to later submit his proposals to the Board of Directors in Paris.

In the Jordanian memo, Mr. Qa'war attached a list of the ships that have been subjected to forcible inspection, including the dates on which the inspections took place. The memo says that in some cases, the crews of these ships were held at gunpoint for several hours without any reason. The memo adds that container ships carrying goods that were 100 percent Jordanian were turned back to unload their cargoes elsewhere. This, the memo says, is a violation of the task of the UN fleet, whose real purpose is to prevent ships carrying Iraqi goods from proceeding to al-'Aqabah Port. The memo says the UN fleet, led by the commander of a U.S. destroyer, is preventing ships carrying Jordanian goods from proceeding to al-'Aqabah. This, it adds, is a flagrant violation of the freedom of shipping and international trade advocated by the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris.

Mr. Qa'war explained that Jordan has already declared its commitment to UN Security Council Resolution 661 and has actually implemented the embargo as substantiated by the lack of activity in the port. However, on the same day that the United States issued its statement, U.S. warships tightened their inspection and banned two ships: the "Ollandia" which was forced to go to Pakistan to unload 128 containers for Jordanian importers, and the Sudanese ship "Blue Nile" which was forced to return to Port Sudan. Mr. Qa'war says: Even if we assume that the western powers and those represented in the naval fleet in the Straits of Tiran have good intentions, it is obvious that the aim behind the presence of

the fleet is to hamper honorable and legal free trade to Jordan through its sole port; namely, al-'Aqabah.

The Jordan memo was incoporated into the agenda of the Maritime Transport Subcommittee of the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris.

Awqaf Minister Urges No Hajj Due to Crisis

JN0211103790 Amman THE STAR in English 1-7 Nov 90 p 4

["By a STAR staff writer"]

[Text] Jordan's Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr 'Ali al-Faqir says he does not think Jordanians should perform the Hajj (pilgrimage) next year "if American and Western presence on the land of Hijaz continues and if political circumstances remain as they are today."

Dr al-Faqir said he was not sure that Jordanian pilgrims will be treated honourably "in the light of current political convulsions, which resulted in boycotting Jordan on more than one area." He added, in an interview with The Star, that he was sure that Jordanians will be provoked and that the Ministry's priority is to guarantee their security and safety.

The minister, who is also a Lower House deputy for Amman's Fifth Constituency, says that his fiery criticisms of the Saudi and other Gulf leaders for collaborating with the West and for inviting foreign troops on the land of Arab Jazira (Arabian Peninsula) were made as a Muslim scholar and deputy and not as a government minister. "My remarks do not represent the official opinion of the government," he said. "I made them from the pulpit and in the mosque where a person is considered for his deed and knowledge and not for the job he holds."

Known among his many followers in one of Amman's low-income neighbourhoods as an outspoken orator, Dr al-Faqir had attacked the Saudi monarch and accused him of violating Islamic Sharia (laws) by inviting foreign presence on the land of Mecca and Medina, two of Islam's holiest shrines. "I cannot but say what I believe, based on Sharia, my conscience and the pulse of our people," he says.

His attack on the Saudis and his refutations of religious fatwa (doctrine) made by some Saudi and Egyptian scholars in which they justified the Saudi-American alliance, were reported by the international press and are said to have enraged the Saudi authorities because they came from a Jordanian cabinet member. "I don't care about false interpretations made by foreigners and Arabs alike," says al-Faqir. "I am more concerned with my own perceptions and I can only be judged according to my intentions."

Dr al-Faqir, an independent Islamist, says if war does break out in the Gulf then he would expect Jordanian, Arab and Islamic reaction to be that of outrage and total rejection of aggression. "It will be a war between Crusade-Jewish forces and Muslim-Arab ones." He adds that while he cannot decide the factors of rage and active opposition to the aggression, he is "sure it will be enormous and comprehensive on Arab, Islamic and international arenas." Dr al-Faqir believes that while the West is able to decide when the war shall start, they will be unable to decide its end "because it will be a war with the Muslim nation."

He says the Gulf crisis may not have taken such a form, involving Muslims all over the world, if it was not for the "desecration of our holy land." But he adds that since these forces are now aiming at destroying "a symbol of our strength as we see Iraq", opposing these forces becomes a duty.

Still the minister does not think Iraq needs Jordan to stand in rejection of the Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis. "Jordan is moving within the framework of international legitimacy and respect of international will. Its own interests will be severely damaged if it refused to execute the resolutions," Dr al- Faqir says.

He also sees popular and official stands on the Gulf crisis as "identical", but when asked about popular claims that the government is distancing itself from the Iraqi position, Minister al-Faqir says foreign affairs and government policy matters should be addressed to the foreign minister.

Dr al-Faqir strongly attacked the newly-formed Islamic-Nationalist coalition within the Lower House of Parliament. "I see this alliance as seeking to ensure personal gains and I can predict that the coming stage will reveal a strong game of rope pulling that will involve many spectators in addition to the government and the House." He sees four major issues that will occupy the House and the government in the coming ordinary session of the Lower House. These are the chairmanship of the House, participation in the government and the possibility of a reshuffle or even a major change, next year's budget and the National Charter. He predicts heated debates to break out on the Charter at all levels.

"I don't think it is wise and prudent to propose a vote of confidence in the government at this stage," says Dr al-Faqir who believes that the present extraordinary circumstances make it difficult for any government to outdo the performance of the current one.

Asked if he would join an Islamic bloc or alliance, that is seeking to apply Islamic sharia, in a vote of no confidence Dr al- Faqir says "I am as a person for the application of Islamic Sharia and if this becomes the immediate demand of any bloc, then I cannot but stand by it." Still he is sure that the Islamic alliance is wise enough to realise that the introduction of Sharia can only come through gradual process.

Meanwhile, Dr al-Faqir is not contemplating joining any of the existing blocs or alliances. "I am strongly against this latest step by the Islamic bloc (allying themselves

with the Nationalists)," he says. "I see it as an attempt to help polish some old faces with an Islamic varnish so that these faces can be marketed again. I cannot accept it on the grounds of my own beliefs. They are using Islam."

Editorial Views Bush Dialogue, Key to Peace

JN0311085790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
3 Nov 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Bush ... and Peace"]

[Text] If President Bush were sincere about reaching a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, and if he were sincere in saying that he does not want to prepare his country for war and that he does not beat the drums of war, then the road in front of him would be paved, especially since a peaceful solution to the crisis is now a world demand and especially since the American people have more than once expressed their refusal to throw their sons into a fierce battle that will destroy everything, and they still insist on this.

President Bush has exhausted himself by making provocative statements that neither open the door to peace nor improve his image in the eyes of the U.S. voter. These statements have charged the region with more tension and made stock prices plunge in many places in the world; they have consequently harmed many people of various nationalities. Perhaps President Bush had better give up the threats and promises with which he addresses Iraq. It has become clear to him that these threats and promises do not scare Iraq and cannot prepare the right atmosphere for defusing the crisis.

President Bush has now a real opportunity to push the crisis toward a just, peaceful solution. The opportunity lies in allowing sufficient time for an Arab settlement to mature, because such a settlement alone can maintain peace in the region and get the Gulf crisis out of the dilemma it is in.

President Bush's wife has alluded to the idea of a possible meeting between him and President Saddam. The U.S. President, however, rushed to set preconditions that dashed the idea. Whether the allusions of President Bush's wife were meant to put out feelers in a personal attempt on her part or upon his recommendation, there is no doubt that dialogue and not fire will open the door to peace. President Saddam has more than once voiced readiness for dialogue with anyone who wishes to settle the Gulf crisis peacefully. He held talks with Soviet envoy Primakov who expressed his conviction that continuing dialogue with President Saddam was important. If the U.S. President is destined to reach a similiar conviction, then he has to fully realize that preconditions are not the right key to the door to dialogue. The key is to abandon dictate, threats, and provocations, and observe mutual respect and acknowledge that international legitimacy cannot be selective.

President Bush can contribute to making peace in the Gulf if he enters through the door to peace, which will not be closed in his face as long as he understands its requirements, which run counter to hegemony, arrogance, and the beating of the drums of war.

We say: No one is adverse to believing President Bush's talk of peace, but action must be taken to prove credibility. The U.S. President should forward the evidence.

Editorial Reproves Baker Remarks in Bahrain

JN0511100990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
5 Nov 90 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Baker Who Has Been Failed by Conciousness"]

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state yesterday inspected his country's forces in Saudi Arabia, and President Bush will spend Thanksgiving Day with these forces. With the special welcome accorded to Baker and the distinguished welcome expected to be accorded to Bush, we cannot think of any greater insult to the Arabs and Muslims than watching the leaders of invasion and occupation being given this warm welcome on the land that they have invaded and occupied—a welcome which is headed by 4,200 men and women from the U.S. First Cavalry Division.

This is not the only insult to Arabs or Muslims. Bush did not hesitate to grant the Arabian peninsula as a fief for his forces when he declared to the U.S. Army officers and soldiers in the Arabian Peninsula: You are away from your homeland, but Americans are at home wherever they are and wherever their principles are. Moreover, close to the holiest Islamic shrines and on the chaste land which witnessed the emergence of Islam and the revelation of the Koran, Baker described the U.S. nation as the best and greatest nation on earth. Definitely, nothing has affected the officials in the Arabian peninsula if they can listen to Baker insult the holy Koran and its description of the Muslim nation as the best nation brought to humanity, by describing the nation of invasion, aggression, and occupation as the greatest and best nation, unlike what our holy Koran has said.

This insult by James Baker is not unexpected from the enemies of Arabism and Islam, but we wonder what his words mean for Washington's allies—the term used by the U.S. secretary of state to describe the tripartite U.S.-British-Israeli hostile alliance. The objective is no longer concealed. It is to strike at Iraq because it is proud, strong, and concerned about maintaining its national decisionmaking, pan-Arab affiliation, and the future of the entire nation. Baker did not conceal the aim of his tour, but clearly declared that he "will ask the Arab and European allies to specify the circumstances under which they will support a military action against Iraq." With the exclusion of Britain, no European ally has hesitated to declare refusal to take part in any military action against Iraq. Here comes the question: With whom will Baker coordinate his military plans? The answer is that coordination will be with Britain, the Zionist enemy, and the allies he specified.

It is somewhat reassuring that the U.S. secretary of state did not hesitate to voice his fear before the U.S. troops, nor did he hesitate to tell them that he does not know what the future has in store for them. We hope the U.S. decisionmaking will be governed by calmness and wisdom and that crazy adventurism will not push matters toward destruction. Sands will not be satisfied with all the blood of mankind. The age of invaders, leeches, and pirates has gone. A war near the Islamic holy places and over the oil wells will not be a sane action to be decided by death merchants and irresponsible leaders.

Columnist Views Treatment by U.S., UN

JN0311135290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
1 Nov 90 p 16

["Frankly Speaking" column by Sultan al-Hattab: "Amid All This, What We Need Is a Clear Stand"]

[Text] I was certain from the very first that the maneuvers and exercises to subdue Jordan began—maneuvers and exercises planned by U.S. policy in the Middle East—that these policymakers would not permit themselves, their allies, or even the UN institutions that they dominate, to pay anything to Jordan in exchange for the big damage it has sustained as a result of the Gulf crisis and its many ramifications.

Jordan's economic and political dilemma did not start on 2 August. Its roots go back before this date, specifically to the day on which Jordan rejected the Camp David accords and when it refused to sell its loyalty, faith, and honor in the marketplace. The Americans, and their slaves in the region, this regime, adopted specific stands on more than one occasion, whether with respect to the encouragement, direct or indirect, and in support of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, or in the speech on democracy in which King Husayn announced to the people that with the establishment of parliament we started the march toward democracy to complete political pluralism and to establish a political life that would secure participation and construction. That is why there are attempts under way to burn Jordan, make it suffer, scare it, and empty its cooking pots of food replacing it with pebbles.

The Americans, their allies, and their slaves in the region play hide-and-seek with us and use this policy as a method for experimentation and as an exercise to make us completely surrender. Will we accept this?

Is it permissible to keep our people ignorant about the details?

Does it suffice for us to say from time to time that we have supplies that will meet our needs for this or that period of time?

Is it enough that participation takes the form of only speeches and published and broadcast interviews?

Should we face the terrible siege with minor and trivial decisions, many of which are obtuse or inept?

What do we have to say when the work of the U.S. Embassy becomes the collection of reports on our borders with Iraq through the employment of informers under various titles to monitor and take pictures of a woman carrying a bag on her shoulders, or a taxi that has in its trunk 20 kg of potatoes or a box of sweets?

Why does the U.S. ambassador speak to us in a tone of reproach with respect to reports that allied Arab and foreign embassies hostile to us and Iraq collect for him, reports that seek to portray us as being against international legitimacy in spite of all that we have offered for peace and for international legitimacy under whose canopy every mortal sin is being committed even in the region and at the hands of those who champion this legitimacy, and in the same manner that Abbasid Caliph Mu'awiya's men raised the Koran on their lances in Saffin!

Shall we continue to be treated unjustly, or should we proceed with our difficult option so that the United States and its slaves will realize that we are capable of choosing our destiny and not their schemes.

We chose to support Iraq from the standpoint of the principle that one must support his brother whether he is right or wrong, in accordance with the Islamic way, because those who chose to support the enemy and reminded us of names such as Al-Kamil ibn Isma'il and Al-Kamil ibn al-Salih, who were Arab and Muslim kings during the Crusaders' time, without having learned lessons from the things they did against their nation and people, will be taken to account by history as it took its course to account. Neither the conscience, values, ties, nor love can be underestimated, which have been put in advance with Satan's men.

The clock is ticking on a time bomb; the only few minutes remain to either save the labyrinths of darkness, or cling to and defend the message of the nation. Those who dream of the enemy's protection or its fair treatment will find out that they are being deluded and that while they have surrendered they continue to claim that they will not give in.

Editorial Condemns U.S. 'Embargo' of 'Al-Aqabah

JN0411120290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
4 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Undeclared U.S. Embargo"]

[Text] Now that things have gone too far and beyond all limits, we can no longer ignore the fact that the United States is imposing an undeclared embargo on our only port, and by this illegitimate action, is attempting to blackmail us politically and make us renege on our pan-Arab conviction.

The actions of U.S. warships off the coast of al-'Aqabah are nothing less than the actions of heavily armed pirates,

regardless of Washington's protest about UN Security Council resolutions and the U.S. diplomatic attempts to cover up for the actions of the U.S. Navy which did not hesitate to force Jordanian cargo into the sea.

What makes this U.S. piracy, which has been going on for weeks off the al-Aqabah coast, more flagrant is that it comes at a time when the U.S. State Department itself declares that Jordan is abiding by the UN Security Council resolutions on the economic embargo and is consequently suffering grave economic damage.

However, the U.S. position declared from Washington has nothing to do with the actual U.S. practices in the Gulf of Aqaba, where its warships are reinforcing a policy of embargo and harassment under false pretexts and excuses. Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department continues to issue recommendations about Jordan's commitment to international resolutions and even talks about the need to compensate Jordan for its economic losses as a result of this commitment.

We, the many of our people, who have begun to feel the pressure of this embargo, are protesting against the U.S. piracy off the coast of al-Aqabah. Hence, we call on the government to stop its silence on such recurrent aggressive actions against our country and to openly protest against the undeclared U.S. embargo and move politically to lift it even if this requires the UN Security Council to convene to discuss the legitimacy of such denounced U.S. actions.

Although the United States can drive the Security Council to adopt the positions and resolutions it wants, this does not prevent us from making the world hear our voice, and from lodging an official complaint against the U.S. piracy. This piracy is not supported by norms or laws and is overshadowed only by the feelings of power and arrogance, which are the traits of every colonialist power.

Al-Hirawi on Greater Beirut, Palestinian Presence

NC0411552090 Clandestine Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi said this afternoon in an interview with the BBC that the state is ready to proclaim zero hour for the establishment of greater Beirut, which extends from Nahr al-Kalb to Nahr al-Damur to the two al-Matn regions and as far as the al-Biqa' plain. He said by the last boundary, he means the international road between Lebanon and Syria.

Asked whether Syrian forces will deploy alongside the Lebanese Army in the greater Beirut area, President al-Hirawi said: According to the al-Ta'if agreement, the state and the Army have the right to ask for assistance if need be. If Lebanese citizens respond to the Lebanese Army's deployment, however, then I believe the Army will not require any such assistance. He added that the government has decided to establish its authority over greater Beirut first, and subsequently over all of Lebanon and the south, God willing. He remarked: Whenever we need assistance, we will request it without feeling any guilt.

On the Palestinian issue, President al-Hirawi said: The Lebanese people and the Lebanese state support the Palestinian cause. We stand by the Palestinian revolution. However, as an independent and free Lebanese state with its own system, we do not support the presence of any armed group on Lebanese territory.

He asserted that Lebanon has paid a greater price for the Palestinian cause than all the other Arab countries combined.

Al-Hirawi asserted that the Palestinian people in Lebanon will be treated the same as the Lebanese people are treated, and the same as Palestinians are treated in other Arab countries.

He said: We take their sacred cause into account and are careful to safeguard it. Except, however, if we refuse to accept talk of bilateral agreements or an agreement with one party against another. We have now embarked on reuniting Lebanon. After we have rehabilitated our national army, the next stage will be in the south.

Al-Hirawi Meets Patriarch, Comments on Plan

NC0311145590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] President of the Republic Ilyas al-Hirawi said today: Soon we will announce Greater Beirut which, as a start, will extend from Nahr al-Kalb to Nahr al-Damur. Then with the help of its sons and citizens Lebanon will be free from any weapons except those of a strong and just state.

In his meeting with [Syriac] Patriarch Zaki 'Iwas, President al-Hirawi added that the peace process has begun and no one can oppose it. We will be able to raise Lebanon to its former status if we all cooperate with the

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

In an interview with Al-Mithaq, Dr. Ja'ja' said that he is to be represented in the government and to be represented by Minister Dr. George Sa'adah are not the same thing because the Lebanese Forces, a major party, are not represented in the government.

The Lebanese Forces commander stressed that the basic step which must be taken now is to form a national accord government. He added: We must no longer exercise one-upmanship against one another. One-upmanship during the past 40 years led to the 15-year war. One-upmanship during the 15-year war had the results we all know. This time we have an agreement in our hands, supported by the majority of Lebanese. All the Arab countries and other countries had a hand in it. It is sufficient to implement this agreement in order to give each party a modicum of its rights and to proceed toward greater agreements and arrangements on the way to the new Lebanon we are seeking.

Concerning the greater Beirut issue, the Lebanese Forces commander reiterated his stand by saying: We support greater Beirut, but at the same time we support the al-Ta'if agreement in its entirety. It is not possible for some parties to choose the parts of the agreement that they want and to ignore the points that they do not like.

He asserted that the al-Ta'if agreement provides for the formation of a national accord government.

Phalangists' Sa'adah Threatens Boycott of Cabinet

NC0611134790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah has stated that either legitimacy will exist or not. He added: If there is legitimacy, it will exist in only one area. If there is no legitimacy, it will exist in all areas. He also added that the formation of a national accord government.

Following a meeting with Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butros Sfayr, which was attended by Deputies Faris Habib and August Bakhos, Dr. Sa'adah said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Your Excellency Minister Sa'adah: Are the measures being taken by the legitimacy with regard to the excesses in the two al-Matn regions sufficient?

[Sa'adah] Either legitimacy will exist or not. It is not in anyone's interest for legitimacy to be weak. It is in the interest of us all for the rifle of legitimacy alone to remain on Lebanese territory. The people are eager to see this rifle alone and nothing else. The excesses are very harmful. For this reason we have been demanding that no one should...[changes thought] We are not demanding the removal of one rifle so that our rifle or another's rifle should replace it. What we are demanding is the presence of legitimacy and the establishment of its authority in the two al-Matn regions in preparation for the establishment of its authority over all Lebanese territory. This is what we have agreed upon in al-Ta'if.

[Reporter] We have been sustained by slogans for two years. Are we going to remain sustained by slogans or are we going to move on to deeds?

[Sa'adah] There are no slogans. There are the Cabinet's provisions and decisions. What is required is implementation of the Cabinet decisions. Otherwise, there will be no justification for any decision to be made. As I said yesterday, we are not false witnesses. If the Cabinet decisions remain ink on paper, there will be no justification at all for us to attend any Cabinet session or participate in the adoption of any decision that remains without implementation. The decisions are not in favor of one party or another. The decisions are in favor of the Lebanese cause. When we were discussing the issue in al-Ta'if, and when we reached agreement on specific provisions, we were thinking that Lebanon would enter an era of security, peace, and stability. We were not thinking of removing one party in order to install another. Some are perhaps misinterpreting our positions and maintaining that we are adopting hardline positions. No. We are not adopting hardline positions. The interpretation that we are trying to ban people from going back to their homes is wrong. I am ready to go and bring everyone to his home, and I am ready to struggle politically with anyone who wants to struggle politically for the Lebanese issue. As a party leader I am ready to compete ideologically with any party and in any area. But what I am not prepared to accept and what no one else accepts is the resumption of armed struggle. Or else, what purpose will there be in the agreements we have concluded? What purpose will there be in all these things if there are parties that still resort to the rifle and seize centers and people's houses? It is time now to put an end to 15 years of security anarchy. [end recording]

Dr. Sa'adah said that the al-Ta'if agreement is clear and the things that should be implemented are clear. He noted that a large part of the agreement has been implemented. But, Sa'adah added, we are against obstacles. He objected to the al-Ta'if agreement's becoming a means for extortion. He called for the formation of a broadly based government, explaining that the present government was formed under certain conditions and for specific tasks. He maintained that the implementation of the Greater Beirut Plan is linked to the consolidation of the legitimate authority's security in the two al-Matn regions. If the presence of legitimacy in greater Beirut will be similar to its presence in the two al-Matn regions, there is no justification for its presence.

Dr. Sa'adah emphatically denied the existence of disagreement between himself and Dr. Ja'ja', noting that his tune is old. He said that there has been no disagreement either today or before. Coordination is continuing for the good of Lebanon.

Sa'adah on Syrian Deployment, New Government

NC0411134790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Minister George Sa'adah has responded to a question about the rumors that Syrian forces may be deployed

in al-Ashrafiyah by saying: We have the al-Ta'if agreement, which calls for the state's power to be imposed over all Lebanese territories in accordance with a one-year plan designed by a national unity government.

In an interview with our radio, Sa'adah said: The agreement says that Syrian withdrawal should begin after certain tasks are accomplished within two years. The agreement therefore calls for Syrian withdrawal rather than deployment. The exploitation of this sensitive point is not in the interest of the country or any group.

Sa'adah said that Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam told him in Damascus that he hopes the Syrians will be able to withdraw in two days instead of two years.

Concerning the boundaries of greater Beirut, Sa'adah said that these borders have not yet been delineated. The two ministers on the committee are expected to brief us on the outcome of their consultations during the next Cabinet meeting. In light of these consultations, the boundaries of greater Beirut will be drawn. The current thinking is that greater Beirut will extend from Nahr al-Damur to Nahr al-Kalb and that it is preferable for Lebanese troops to implement this extension, Sa'adah said.

As for the situation in lower and upper al-Matn, Sa'adah said that the agreement reached with the government calls for the legitimate forces to take sole charge of security in al-Matn. Sa'adah added: I am not against the return of al-Matn residents to their hometowns, whether they are from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party or among [former Lebanese Forces commander Elie] Hubayqah's followers. I am not against their exercising their political rights. What I am against is the occupation of homes, the harrassment of the population, and the use of illegitimate force. I am concerned about the credibility of the legitimate government. I do not accept that a decision can be passed by the Cabinet only to be twisted and remain unimplemented.

In an interview with journalists at the Juniyah telephone exchange, Sa'adah said that he and Khaddam discussed imposing law and order in the areas under the government's control. The government's credibility will be hurt and its future actions questionable unless it manages to bring law and order to al-Matn and B'abda, Sa'adah said.

Sa'adah added that the formation of a new government is a necessity because the conditions that gave rise to the current government have changed. It is necessary to establish a national reconciliation government with a broad basis and with the participation of those forces with leverage on the Lebanese scene.

Yesterday Minister Sa'adah met Lebanese Forces' Dr. Samir Ja'ja' and discussed the current situation with him.

Amal's Birri, Hizballah's al-Tufayli Depart for Syria

NC0411070690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] A Syrian-Iranian higher committee cochaired by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi will resume its meetings in Damascus today to tackle the Amal-Hizballah issue. During the first round of talks held yesterday, a working plan was approved. The talks also dealt with the situation in the Gulf and Lebanon. The committee's main task is to achieve a final agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah to resolve their armed conflict.

Within this context, an Amal Movement delegation led by Minister Nabih Birri and a Hizballah delegation led by Saykh Subhi al-Tufayli left for Damascus yesterday.

PLO's Abu-Iyad Calls For Dialogue With State

NC0311074390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, Fatah's number two man, has stated that the PLO wants to conduct an official dialogue with the Lebanese state in order to organize the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. He said that the PLO will not be an obstacle to the establishment of the legitimate government's authority and Lebanon's unity.

Abu-Iyad warned against excluding the Palestinians from any dialogue because this will lead to a catastrophe that will be costly to everyone, as he put it.

Fadlallah, Sha'ban Attack U.S. Military Presence

LD0211180190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the eminent Lebanese clergyman, described the aim of the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf as being to get its hands on all the economic resources of the region and crush the Islamic forces.

According to a Central News Unit report from Beirut, he was delivering Friday prayers sermons in a southern suburb of Beirut. Condemning Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, he said that war in the Persian Gulf is in the interests of none of the regional countries. Therefore, the Muslim peoples should do their best to prevent the outbreak of war.

In the Friday prayers sermons in Tripoli, Lebanon, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, head of the Islamic Towhid Movement of Lebanon, said that the United States' military presence in the region is in line with Israel's interests. He called on all Arab and Islamic organizations to join in the struggle against U.S. policies in the region.

Referring to the expanding Islamic uprising of the people of Palestine, he said the Islamic revolution of the people

of Palestine is the only way to free honorable Jerusalem. All Muslims should give total support to that revolution.

Group Threatens French Embassies Over 'Awn Case

NC0311062290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] A hitherto unknown organization calling itself the Eagles of the Revolution [Nusur al-Thawrah] has threatened to attack French embassies in Arab and other countries if General Michel 'Awn is not turned over to the Lebanese Government to be put on trial.

'Awn Aides Said Linked to Mu'awwad Assassination

NC0311144190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Citing political sources, the magazine AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI has reported that highly classified documents pertaining to the assassination of the late President Rene Mu'awwad were seized at al-Yarzah [Defense Ministry building] shortly after the collapse of the rebellion. The documents show that 'Awn's aides 'Adil Sasin and Fu'ad al-Ashqar planned and perpetrated the assassination of President Mu'awwad.

Defense Ministry on Security Measures Enforcement

NC0311145890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] The Defense Ministry's military operations room information section has announced the following: Within the measures that the Army command is implementing, on the defense minister's instructions and in light of Cabinet decisions, the Lebanese-Syrian Military Coordination Committee has continued to perform the tasks entrusted to it.

Between 19 and 29 October, it carried out the following: First, 40 houses and institutions which had been illegally confiscated by unqualified parties have been evacuated; second, 15 confiscated or stolen vehicles have been restored to their owners; third, arms and equipment belonging to the Army, including a field gun, have been retrieved; fourth, a number of kidnapped persons have been freed and raids on homes and harassment of individuals have been stopped.

The committee is continuing to carry out its tasks in implementation of the decisions to establish the state's authority, enforce law, and defend citizens and institutions.

Army Steps Up Measures in Al-Matn Regions

Gunmen Captured

NC0311143990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] The Lebanese Army has stepped up its security measures in the areas of its deployment in northern and southern al-Matn. Army units have intensified patrols to prevent any show of force in these areas. Army units intercepted and opened fire at a group of 10 gunmen in al-Mukallis area early yesterday, wounding one of them and capturing the others.

Meanwhile, the Army's 6th Brigade set up a new checkpoint on the old Sidon road to check cars and consolidate security in the area after the elimination of the contact lines and withdrawal of gunmen.

Army engineering corps have dismantled mines and detonated duds in Jisr al-Wati area preparatory to reopening the road which links the areas of Sinn al-Fil, al-Nab'ah, and Burj Hammud.

Unrest Continues

NC0411182090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1745 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Despite all the legitimate state's promises and statements and despite the state's deadline for controlling the situation in the two al-Matn regions, there are parties which reject all solutions and endeavor to obstruct the accord march.

These parties resumed their assaults and blatant practices in the two regions. The last of these practices took place today when a number of citizens were kidnapped. Among them are Lahhud Yusuf Lahhud, Tanyus Nuhra, Malik Tawq, and Tony Nuhra 'Azar. Their whereabouts are still unknown.

The same parties continue to occupy Phalangist Party centers and citizens' houses. They are using certain areas to intimidate and terrorize the citizens.

Resistance Group Ambushes Lahdist Patrol 3 Nov

NC0311171190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] In the resisting south, an Amal Movement resistance group ambushed a Lahd agents infantry patrol on the Markaba-Bayt Yahun road at 0640 today. The resistance fighters opened fire from medium- and light-caliber machine guns and rockets, inflicting grave losses on the patrol personnel. The resistance group returned safely to base.

Shortly afterward, Israeli positions in Haddathah and Bra'shit bombarded valleys near the Bayt Yahun position with tanks, 120-mm mortars, and 12.7-mm machine guns. The outskirts of Jazzin were also shelled.

Iran's Habibi, Delegation Visit for Meetings

Arrive in Damascus

JN0311135890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Iranian Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi arrived in Damascus at noon today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic and to attend the meetings of the higher Syrian-Iranian committee. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam led the receiving line at Damascus International Airport. Also on hand were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iran's ambassador in Damascus. [passage omitted]

In a statement to SANA, Dr. Habibi said that during President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Tehran, the two countries had agreed to form a higher committee to oversee relations in all fields. The two countries, he added, agreed that the higher committee would convene alternately in Tehran and Damascus. The first meeting in Damascus will chart a plan of action for the higher committee and the two sides will compare notes on regional issues and also discuss relations.

Dr. Habibi's delegation is made up of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati; his assistant, Gholam Reza San'ati; Mahmud Hashemi-Rafsanjani, director of the Middle East desk at the Foreign Ministry; Mohammad Vahidi, assistant defense minister; (Ahmad Fas Malijian), the foreign minister's adviser; and (Mohammad Hoseyn Danyal), the vice president's chief of protocol.

Hold First Round of Talks

LD0411070190 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, Nov. 4, IRNA—Iran's visiting First Vice President Hasan Habibi held first round of talks with his Syrian counterpart 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam here Saturday [3 November] with both sides calling for promotion of Tehran-Damascus relations.

Zionist crimes against Palestinians and the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region were other topics of discussion.

Condemning Zionist crimes, the two sides voiced support for the struggle of the Palestinian people. They also condemned Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and called for unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

On U.S. officials' statements on the intended long-term stay of American forces in the Persian Gulf region, Habibi, who arrived here Saturday heading a delegation, said that the allied forces must withdraw from the region. Khaddam, too, said that the permanent presence of foreign forces was not tolerable.

The two sides also rejected any change in geographical borders in the region and called for collective cooperation of regional states to establish stability and security.

The meeting was attended by foreign ministers of Iran and Syria 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Faruq al-Shar' and a group of officials from both countries.

Meanwhile, members of the Central Council of Lebanese Hizballah met with Habibi at the Iranian Embassy here Saturday night.

Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh al-Tufayli outlined Hizballah's viewpoints on the latest developments in Lebanon and praised Iran's efforts to stop bloodshed among Shia Muslims in Lebanon.

Habibi stressed the role of Lebanese Muslims specially Hizballah in anti-Zionist struggle and reiterated Iran's support for the campaign of the Lebanese nation. He emphasized that Shia Muslims in Lebanon must stop infighting.

Discuss Amal-Hizballah 'Differences'

JN0411214890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] The Syrian-Iranian Higher Joint Committee held a round of talks this evening cochaired by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Hasan Habibi. The Syrian side to the talks also included Foregin Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Nasir Qaddur, state minister for foreign affairs; the Iranian side included Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati; Assistant Foreign Minister (Kazem Sinfari); and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

They reviewed Lebanese developments and progress toward working out differences between the Amal movement and Hizballah. They also considered the Lebanese Government's measures to enforce the national reconciliation document and establish peace and security in Lebanon.

Habibi Confers With Al-Asad

LD0411113490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] [Iranian] First Vice President Habibi, who is in Syria at the head of a delegation, today met and conferred with President Hafiz al-Asad in al-Ladhiqiyah.

The Central News Unit reports that during the meeting, which was also attended by Messrs 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian vice president and foreign minister respectively, the latest developments in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East were reviewed.

Before the meeting Mr. Habibi visited the holy shrine of Her Holiness Zaynab, God's peace be upon her.

Al-Asad, Habibi Cited on Talks

LD0411190890 Tehran IRNA in English 1816 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, Nov. 4, IRNA—"Your visit to Tehran further strengthened mutual ties," Iran's first vice-president Hassan Habibi told Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad today.

Describing relations between the two countries as "brotherly and excellent", Habibi who arrived here Saturday [3 November], conveyed to President al-Asad "warm greetings" from his Iranian counterpart.

Among other issues discussed at the meeting, also attended by the Iranian and Syrian foreign ministers, was the situation in Palestine and the fresh Zionist crimes against the Muslims there in light of Washington's full support for the illegal state of Israel.

Al-Asad, and Habibi denounced the Zionist crimes, saying that the illicit entity and its supporters, taking advantage of the Persian Gulf crisis, have added another dark folio to their crime record against Palestinian Muslims.

Talks centred on the latest developments in the Persian Gulf and Lebanon.

The two sides called the ouster of renegade Christian General Michel 'Awn "a great success" for the Lebanese people and expressed hope that Muslim fratricide would come to an end in view of efforts pooled by Iran, Syria, and Islamic and national groups in Lebanon.

They also condemned the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and rejecting any changes in Kuwait's geopolitical borders, stressed the need for Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from that tiny Persian Gulf state.

Minister on Gulf Troops, U.S. Aid to Israel

JN0411160590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1220 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Dispatch by Louis Faris from Damascus]

[Text] Official Syrian-Iranian talks have been going on since yesterday evening. This morning President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Vice President Hasan Habibi and his delegation, which includes Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

Khaddam and Habibi chaired the first higher Syrian-Iranian joint committee meeting, during which the committee's statutes were approved and the situations in the Gulf and Lebanon were discussed.

After this, a meeting was held between the Iranian delegation and a delegation representing the Hizballah command. Informed sources said that the discussion dealt with the agreement between Hizballah and the Amal Movement to iron out the disagreement between the two under the sponsorship of Syria and Iran, and in a way that will allow the legitimate Lebanese Government to bring the Lebanese Army into the Iqlim al-Tuffah region as a first step in the implementation of the plan on greater Beirut. The sources described the atmosphere as positive and said they expect the Amal Movement delegation to arrive here within the next few hours.

Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman, during his meeting with a delegation of the Syrian Society in the United Kingdom, said today that Syria and Iran agree on the need for a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. He said: This will, however, not make us give up our struggle against Zionism. That is why Syria has rejected the U.S. policy of generously bestowing sophisticated weapons and additional financial assistance on Israel on the basis of a confrontation with Iraq. He added: This cannot be justified.

Minister Salman highlighted the increase of the U.S. strategic reserves in Israel, viewing these measures as not only aimed against Iraq but also against the countries facing Israel and the Palestinian intifadah. Salman expressed surprise that the Palestinians have said nothing about this. Salman added that Syria abides by its decision to dispatch Syrian forces to defend Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries, on the principle that the Arab should protect his Arab brother.

Minister Salman said that arrangements are being finalized to dispatch a full Syrian armored division to Saudi Arabia in implementation of the pledge Syria has made to the Riyadh government that the number of Syrian forces in the Kingdom would be around 20,000. Salman added that if Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf countries ask for more than this, Syria would not hesitate in responding to this request.

On Lebanon, Minister Salman said that Syria supports and helps the legitimate authorities to implement the Greater Beirut Plan, to be followed by filling the chamber of deputies with 180 members in implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. This is to be followed by the formation of the national government which will be responsible for the reconstruction of Lebanon. Minister Salman said he expects a new board of administration to be formed for the fund for supporting Lebanon.

Minister Salman emphasized that the legitimate authorities will have the last word and that they alone will carry weapons. This decision is definitive and applies to all militias in the Lebanese arena. Weapons will only be used against the Israeli occupation, and not against the Lebanese citizens.

Our radio has learned that the Syrian, Egyptian, and Saudi foreign ministers will hold a meeting here on Tuesday [6 November].

Fate of British Hostages Said Unrelated to Ties

JN0411174290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said that Syria will use all its influence to back efforts to secure the release of Western hostages in Lebanon. He added that the future of the British hostages is not linked to the restoration of British-Syrian relations.

Bangladesh

Worshippers, Police Clash in Curfew Break

BK0211120090 Hong Kong AFP in English
1147 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 2 (AFP)—Moslem demonstrators clashed with security forces in the capital and elsewhere Friday during a brief relaxation of curfew, witnesses said, as the death toll in three days of religious clashes rose to three.

At least 1,000 Moslems came out of the Baitul Mukarram national mosque here after Friday prayers and tried to hold a rally, but security forces used long bamboo sticks and rifle butts to disperse the demonstration against the storming of a mosque in Ayodhya, India, by Hindus.

Dhaka Radio had warned that the curfew would be reimposed after two and a half hours and that security forces would not tolerate demonstrations or rallies during the break.

The forces also used batons against curfew violators and several people were arrested, but police said they did not have an immediate figure.

A young boy died from a fall when police chased the violators, witnesses said. No further details were available.

Medical sources confirmed that an unidentified boy had died Wednesday at Dhaka Medical College hospital after he was shot during Moslem-Hindu clashes that erupted Tuesday night in the old city.

A second victim, an elderly Moslem man, died Thursday at Salimullah Medical College hosital in the old city shortly after he was brought in with a gunshot wound to the chest, a doctor there said.

The doctor said 200 people injured in the riots were treated in various hospitals.

Many people who were stranded because of the sudden order on Thursday rushed to their destinations during the break.

About 600 passengers also left the main Zia International Airport here after being stranded there for about a day, sources said.

Troops were seen at different points of the city, but were mostly concentrated at the volatile, walled old parts of the city, where a large number of Hindu people live.

In the southeastern second-city of Chittagong, some 5,000 people refused to join a peace procession by Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and paraded the city streets briefly after Friday prayers, before being dipersed by the security forces. The minister left the scene quickly under police protection, witnesses said.

Hindus are the largest minority group in overwhelmingly Moslem Bangladesh, making up about 12 per cent of the 110 million population. The groups have generally lived together peacefully in this country.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on Thursday ordered troops to join police and paramilitary forces in enforcing order in Dhaka, and widened a curfew imposed Tuesday night on older districts to the rest of the city.

Students, Teachers Defy Ban on Rallies, Marches

BK0311134790 Hong Kong AFP in English
1318 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 3 (AFP)—Some 1,000 teachers and students, defying a government ban on processions and rallies, marched through the capital's streets Saturday calling for an end to religious violence in Bangladesh.

Members of the Dhaka University Teachers Association and the All Party Students Union also accused President Hussain Mohammad Ershad of using the recent Hindu-Moslem violence in the country to distract attention from an opposition campaign to oust him.

Authorities relaxed a curfew in Dhaka for 10 hours Saturday, but imposed a ban on assemblies of more than five people in seven of the 14 police districts, including the densely populated and Hindu-dominated old quarters of Dhaka.

Security forces arrested more than 300 people for violating the curfew overnight in different parts of the capital, sources said.

An indefinite curfew was imposed here Wednesday after Hindu-Moslem violence broke out in the walled old parts of the city.

The violence spread from neighbouring India, where 2,000 Hindus stormed an ancient mosque in Ayodhya on Tuesday, vowing to tear it down and build a temple in its place.

President Ershad Thursday called in the army and police and paramilitary forces to curb the riots that followed in Dhaka.

Sources said one teenage boy was shot and injured when security forces opened fire after he violated the curfew late Friday.

Vice-president Moudud Ahmed earlier said the government, in an effort to curb looting, had ordered security forces to shoot on sight anyone seen breaking the law.

An unidentified man, who was injured Thursday, died Saturday in Barisal District, bringing the death toll from four days of Hindu-Moslem violence to four, sources here said. All of the dead were Moslems.

The opposition in Bangladesh has been campaigning for eight years for the resignation of Mr. Ershad and for free and fair polls under an interim government.

Curfew Canceled 3 Nov; Ershad Visits Hindus

BK0311162490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] As the situation in Dhaka City continues to improve, there will be no curfew from 0700 till 1700 tomorrow. The curfew was reimposed in the city at 1700 today and it will continue till 0700 tomorrow morning. There was curfew relaxation for 10 hours in Dhaka City from 0700 to 1700 today. However, Section 144 has been imposed in seven police stations in Dhaka, banning assembly of more than five persons. The police stations are Lal Bagh, Chhatrapur, Kotwali, Ramna, Motijheel, Dhanmandi, and Tezgaon. The people have been advised not to come out of their houses without valid pass during curfew hours. Doctors, newsmen, officers and employees of radio and tv, Bangladesh Biman, civil aviation, railway, post and telegraph, and persons on duty in emergency services like electricity, telephone, ambulance, water, gas, fire brigade, and garbage disposal units will not come under the purview of the curfew. Identity cards issued to them by their respective organizations will be treated as curfew pass. The confirmed tickets of Bangladesh Biman and intercity railway tickets will also be treated as curfew pass.

President Ershad visited the Boalmari upazila [subdistrict] headquarters and adjoining villages in Faridpur District today to see the situation there following certain incidents yesterday. He asked the authorities to immediately repair the damaged temples. The lost and damaged items will be replaced by the government. He also gave the assurance that all possible assistance would be provided to those affected during the incidents. The president talked to the members of the Hindu community at Boalmari, Kamugram, and other places. Assuring them of full safety and security, he said the government would not allow the miscreants to indulge in such incidents in future. Later, addressing a cross section of people at Balmari, President Ershad urged the people to maintain communal peace and harmony. He said the glorious tradition of peaceful coexistence in the society would be preserved at all costs. The president reminded the people that Islam is the religion of peace and peaceful coexistence with other religion is essential to become true Muslim.

President Meets Editors' Council on Situation

BK0411162790 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] President Ershad had a meeting with the members of the council of editors in Dhaka today. Various national issues, including maintenance of communal harmony, came up during the discussion. Talking to the editors, the president said [words indistinct] are equal as citizens irrespective of their religion. It is our responsibility to ensure safety, security and religious freedom of all communities. The president said he thinks the situation created out of the recent disturbances has already improved a lot and is expected to be completely normal in a couple of days. The information minister, Dr. Mizanur Rahman Shelley, also spoke on the occasion. Members of the editors council took part in the discussion. [passage omitted]

The Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, Mr. K. Srinivasan called on President Ershad in Dhaka today. The high commissioner conveyed the president his government's appreciation of prompt action in tackling disturbances of communal nature in Bangladesh.

Opposition Calls For Ershad To Step Down

BK0511110090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1049 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 5 (AFP)—Top Bangladesh opposition leaders Monday called on President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to step down as several thousand supporters demonstrated in front of the national television and radio stations here.

"The time is not far away when guns pointing at the people now will turn towards Ershad, when he will have no choice but to flee," Begum Khaleda Zia, chairman of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), told supporters at a demonstration near the television centre.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, chief of the opposition Awami League, at a separate rally near the radio station, said: "The current campaign will go on until Ershad is forced to step down."

The eight-party alliance led by the Awami League, the seven-party grouping headed by the BNP, and the left-leaning five-party grouping under Nirmal Sen, were protesting what they called biased news by the state-run organisations.

Authorities announced Sunday they were further relaxing a curfew imposed on Dhaka last week and withdrawing a ban on rallies and processions, which political observers said was a step to avoid direct confrontation with the opposition.

Teachers, journalists and students had defied the ban for two days.

Begum Zia asked the several hundred security forces guarding the road leading to the television building to join the people because they were armed and fed with public money.

She declared that since radio and television only carried reports on Mr. Ershad and his government, people should stop paying taxes for its development.

"Mr. Ershad can pay that amount from his ill-gotten wealth," she said.

A television crew, for the first time in recent years, was seen taping the opposition activities.

"We have been ordered to shoot (film of) the incident and do not know what will happen next," a television official said when asked if the event would be seen on the evening news.

Sheikh Hasina said the Ershad government was "muzzling the press and using the radio and television for publicity of his government and family" in a bid to cling to power illegally.

The two leaders and Nirmal Sen demanded that factual reports of the current anti-Ershad campaign be broadcasted in state-run television and radio.

Activists briefly threw stones at police and paramilitary forces armed with automatic weapons, water cannons and gas-spraying vehicles, but left when Begum Zia appealed for calm.

She said any violence would give the government an opportunity to impose tougher laws.

The rightist Jamaat-i-Islami Party, along with about 2,000 of its supporters, demonstrated briefly near the television centre and presented a memorandum to officials saying it was shameful that television was being used for an individual's personal use.

The opposition has been campaigning over the last few years for the resignation of Mr. Ershad and the holding of free and fair elections under an interim neutral government.

Opposition leaders insist that fair polls are not possible under the 60-year-old former general, who seized power in a 1982 military coup.

Mr. Ershad has repeatedly called on the opposition to join in talks on holding elections, but the opposition has rejected the calls.

Press Release Issued on Curfew Relaxation

BK0511161290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] A press release of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police [DMP] says, there will be no curfew from 0500 [2300 GMT] to 0000 midnight tomorrow. However, during relaxation of curfew period, meetings, rallies, and processions will be banned in Kotwali, Shutrapur, and Lal Bagh police station areas under section 29 of DMP ordinance. Any violation will be severely dealt with. Public cooperation has been sought in this connection.

India

Ayodhya Clashes Claim 16 Killed, 127 Injured

BK0211154790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] In Ayodhya, nine persons were killed in police firing as kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] made several attempts to move toward the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] complex. According to the UP [Uttar Pradesh] chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, 127 people, including 50 security force personnel, were injured in the clashes between the kar sevaks and the police. Agency reports have put the death toll at 16.

The trouble started around 1000 this morning when a large group of kar sevaks started advancing toward the complex. Police resorted to lathi [baton] charge to disperse them. Soon, big crowds appeared from the north and west sides of the Ayodhya police station. A pitched battle followed between the police and the kar sevaks as they moved toward the disputed site after breaching the cordons. The mob set on fire a police post and some vehicles. They are also believed to have removed some bodies.

Two BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] MP's [members of parliament]—Miss Uma Bharati and Mr. Harin Pathak—who were leading the kar sevaks—were arrested. Elsewhere in Uttar Pradesh, five persons were killed in violent incidents. Over 1,000 persons have been arrested. The situation in the curfew-bound areas of Kanpur is peaceful. Curfew was relaxed in Allahabad for five hours from 0700 this evening.

Situation in Uttar Pradesh, Other Areas Updated

BK0311101290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the situation in all the 24 curfew-bound towns is reported to be peaceful. The home secretary, Mr. A.K. Rastogi, told our Lucknow correspondent that no untoward incidents have been reported from anywhere since this morning. He said that one CISF [Central Industrial Security Force] jawan [soldier] was burnt alive, when some kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] set on fire the police check post near Sarayu river in Ayodhya yesterday. He said as per latest reports received from Ayodhya, 170 persons were injured during the firing yesterday. He said that three bodies, which were recovered from Sarayu River, are not connected with the firing incidents on Tuesday last. The Army today staged a flag march in Ayodhya to ensure peace and confidence among the people.

Meanwhile, the situation in Bijnor is stated to be tense with the recovery of 15 more bodies from the curfew-bound and adjoining areas of Bijnor town. The death toll in the violent incidents has risen to 33.

In Gujarat, barring some stray incidents of violence in Rajpipla town and two villages of Bharuch District, the situation in the state is reported to be peaceful. Curfew

has been clamped in Rajpipla. Our Ahmedabad correspondent quoting police sources reports that one person was killed in Umarwada in Bharuch District. Meanwhile, curfew has been lifted from four police station areas of Ahmedabad and relaxed in some other areas of the city and in Baroda for different periods.

In Bombay, 11 persons were injured when police opened fire to disperse stone-throwing mobs at Agripada area late last night. The condition of two of them is said to be serious. In Indore, day curfew has been lifted from four more police station areas and relaxed in a few places from 1130 [0600 GMT] this morning, following improvement in the situation. In the neighboring town, Dewas, a three and a half hour curfew relaxation passed off peacefully this morning.

In Andhra Pradesh, the law and order situation in the curfew-bound Hyderabad city continues to be peaceful barring two stabbing incidents last night. An assistant sub inspector succumbed to his injuries today. The authorities have supplied essential commodities in the curfew-bound areas.

Hindu Leader Warns of 'Guerrilla War' at Mosque

BK0411085790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0819 GMT 4 Nov 90

[by Anil Penna]

[Text] Ayodhya, India, Nov 4 (AFP)—Hindu militants warned Sunday they would launch a guerrilla campaign to take over a disputed Moslem mosque at the heart of widespread sectarian strife.

The warning was sounded at a public meeting here as tension simmered in Ayodhya where Hindus have twice attempted to overrun the 16th century mosque in the past week.

Hardline Hindu leader Vinay Katyal, speaking to hundreds of Hindus at a temple here, called on the government to back off from a confrontation which he said would prove disastrous.

Mr. Katral told the meeting that the faithful would have no option but to take up arms if New Delhi did not listen to them.

"We will launch a guerrila war if necessary," said Mr. Katyal, leader of the militant Bajrang Dal, adding: "but we will build the temple."

The Bajrang Dal is an ally of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP or World Hindu Council) which is at the forefront of the temple construction drive.

Hundreds of Hindus stormed the mosque Tuesday, defying police gunfire that left six people dead. They mounted another attempt to take the shrine Friday to be repulsed again by security forces with the loss of 18 lives.

Hindus believe that the mosque was built after the Moghul emperor Barbar demolished a temple to Lord Rama, an incarnation of the god Vishnu, the preserver of life in Hindu mythology, which had marked his birthplace.

Mr. Katyal said Hindus would continue to try and storm the shrine braving bullets but did not say when the next attempt would be made.

"We will do it again and again," he said.

"The hearts of the Hindus are burning over this issue... The fire in our hearts will ignite the nation.

"If the government persist in shooting us, we will be forced to start a guerrilla war," added Mr. Katyal, who is also a prominent member of the VHP.

The 38-year-old hardliner said the VHP, which claims a membership of two million, would turn its temple drive into a "national campaign."

To begin with, the ashes of those killed by police here would be sent all over India to be carried in ceremonial processions through villages, towns and cities to highlight the "government's atrocities" and whip up public support, he said.

"We will paralyse the entire country. We will lay siege on every government office, stop buses and trains and bring administrative work to a standstill," he warned.

As Mr. Katyal spoke, police and paramilitary forces reinforced security around the disputed site.

Five security rings have been thrown up around the shrine and all surrounding rooftops taken over by security forces.

Reporters were not allowed to approach the crumbling mosque and were told brusquely to leave the area by a senior police officer supervising the security arrangements.

"Yes," said the oficer, Inspector General of Police C.P.N. Sinha, when asked if he expected further trouble.

Some 35,000 to 40,000 police and paramilitary troopers have been deployed in and around Ayodhya and an indefinite curfew was still in force in the town Sunday.

The VHP had set a 12-hour deadline saturday for the local administration to lift the curfew, release detained Hindu activists and throw open the disputed shrine to Hindu visitors.

Mr. Katyal said VHP representatives were holding talks with local officials after the expiry of the deadline Sunday morning.

VHP officials estimated that about 320,000 Hindus from all over india were still camping in and around Ayodhya, twice the official figure.

Nearly 5,000 volunteers who had travelled far to come here returned home Saturday but as many more had arrived to take their place, a VHP spokesman said.

Hundreds of people have died in communal strife since the dispute errupted in February 1986 when the mosque was thrown open to Hindu worshippers by a court order.

Hindus Leaving Ayodhya; Situation Peaceful

BK0511040290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the situation in all the 24 curfew-bound towns is graduall, returning to normal. An official spokesman told AIR [All India Radio] Lucknow correspondent this morning that no incident has been reported from anywhere during the past 24 hours. Curfew is being relaxed for four to 12 hours today in rotation in the different localities of Lucknow City. The relaxation in curfew is being granted in most of the towns in view of the improving situation.

The situation in Faizabad and Ayodhya continues to be peaceful. The security forces, however, are maintaining a strict vigil in and around the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] site. Meanwhile, the kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] are moving out of Ayodhya by the special transport arranged by the district administration. In Kanpur, curfew is being relaxed from 0900 to 1600 today following improvement in the situation. All government offices will open today. Educational institutions will, however, remain closed.

In Bihar, the situation remained almost peaceful and under control in the curfew-bound areas of eastern and central Patna. According to official sources, no untoward incident has been reported during the last 12 hours. Night curfew will be lifted from the areas of Pirbahor and Kadam Kuwan police stations from today. According to official sources, the situation in Ranchi and Gridih remains peaceful, while an indefinite curfew is continuing in three police station areas of the steel city of Jamshedpur. The chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad, visited the curfew-bound areas in Patna late last night to take stock of the situation. He also reviewed the law and order situation with top officials.

In Gujarat, no major violent incident has been reported from anywhere since last night. In Ahmedabad, life is returning to normal.

Kar Sevaks Drop Temple Building Program

BK0511075090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, kar sevaks [Hindu volunteers] have decided to drop the present program of performing kar seva [voluntary service to build the temple] at the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid site in Ayodhya. An understanding to this effect was reached between the organizers of kar seva and the district administration, Faizabad, this morning. A spokesman of the state government told our Lucknow correspondent that the district administration will now permit kar sevaks to offer prayers at the Sri Ram Temple at Ayodhya.

Pakistani Statements on Temple Protested

BK0311125290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] India has strongly protested to the statements of Pakistan leaders on the situation in Ayodhya. New Delhi has said that the statements of the caretaker prime minister and foreign minister of Pakistan on the developments are deliberate distortion of facts and interference in the internal affairs of India. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that New Delhi is tackling the extremely delicate and sensitive situation in Ayodhya with tact, resolve, and courage in keeping with the secular principles of our constitution and polity. In fact, the central government has staked its very existence in office in defense of secularism and national unity.

BJP Leader Released, To Reach Delhi 4 Nov

BK0411074890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has been released from Masanjod Rest House in Bihar this morning. He is being brought to Delhi by a special plane from Purnia in Bihar. Mr. Advani is likely to reach the capital this afternoon. This was stated by the BJP general secretary, Mr. J.P. Mathur, in New Delhi today.

It may be recalled that the Allahabad High Court had directed the government to release Mr. Advani and other BJP MP's [members of parliament] and enable them to reach the capital before the BJP parliamentary party meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning.

Advani Reaches Delhi

BK0411132190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, and three of his party members of parliament arrived in New Delhi this afternoon. Mr. Advani was detained under the National Security Act at Masanjod in Bihar along with Mr. Pramod Mahajan, Mr. Yadunath Pandey, and Mr. Shailendra Singh. They were released in the morning and brought to the capital by a special plane.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, Mr. Advani said that his party is not in favor of demolishing the structure of the so-called mosque but only wants that this structure should be shifted to a few kms away and the temple should be constructed at the site of the janmasthan [birth place of Hindu god Ram].

Arrangements Made for 5 Nov BJP Strike

BK0411132390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Elaborate arrangements have been made to maintain law and order in the capital tomorrow in view of the Delhi bundh [strike] called by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata

Party] in protest against the police action in Uttar Pradesh. Armed police pickets have been posted in sensitive areas as a precautionary measure.

Law, Order Plans Made

BK0511040790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] In view of the BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party's] call for Delhi bundh [strike] today, elaborate arrangements have been made to maintain law and order in the capital. The bundh has been called to protest against police action in Uttar Pradesh. Armed police pickets have been posted in sensitive areas as a precautionary measure. Essential services, including hospitals, water, and milk supply, have been exempted from the purview of the bundh. DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] buses, however, will not ply today. The Delhi unit of the Congress-S and the youth wing of the Lok Dal have criticized the bundh call.

Parliamentary Affairs Deputy Minister Resigns

BK0311080190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] The deputy minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr. Jagdip Dhankar, has resigned. He sent in his resignation to the prime minister today. Mr. Dhankar told our correspondent in New Delhi that the country is being forced to go for a mid-term poll, which, at this juncture, will jeopardize the unity and integrity of the country and aggravate communal tension. He also called for a change in the leadership of the Janata Dal parliamentary party. Mr. Dhankar expressed his concern over the loss of life in the recent incidents in Ayodhya and other parts of the country.

Additional Ministers Resign

BK0411162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Two more ministers have resigned from the union council of ministers. They are: The minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, and the deputy minister for women and child development, Mrs. Usha Singh.

In a letter addressed to the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, today, Mr. Sahay said he feels that he should not continue in the Council of Ministers after all attempts failed for taking the initiative to resolve the political crisis.

Mrs. Usha Singh announced her decision to resign from the Council of Ministers today at the residence of the former deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal. Mrs. Singh said that she has decided to quit as she felt it is improper to continue in present circumstances.

Water Minister Resigns

BK0511082090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The minister of state for water resources, Mr. Manubhai Kataria, today resigned from the Union Council of Ministers.

Kashmir Party Pulls Support of National Front

BK0311150190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Panthers party today withdrew its support to the National Front government. The party president, Mr. Bhim Singh, told newsmen in New Delhi that his party is one of the founding members of the National Front but was withdrawing from it, as the Front has lost its credibility with the people.

Janata Dal Leaders Ask Singh To Step Down

BK0411163390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Senior Janata Dal leaders Mr. Devi Lal and Mr. Chandra Shekhar have asked the prime minister to step down. In a significant development, they told newsmen that if Mr. V.P. Singh does not agree the parliamentary party will elect a new leader. They said it is for the parliamentary party to decide on the new leader.

Mr. Devi Lal said a good number of party MPs [Members of Parliament] hold this view. Mr. Chandra Shekhar also claimed that the requisite number is on their side to prevent a mid-term poll, which at this juncture is not desirable. But both declined to give the numbers. They said they will try to avoid a split in the party.

Replying to a question, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he has neither sought nor got the support of the Congress-I.

According to Mr. Devi Lal, there is nothing wrong in seeking Congress-I support as many of those in power today are old Congressmen. He said the stepping down of Mr. V.P. Singh will enable the realignment of political forces so that the National Front can fulfill its poll pledges.

Thirteen Janata Dal MPs, including Mr. Cheri Paswan, Mr. Jorwar Ram, and Mr. Suryanarayan Yadav and Mr. K.C. Thiyagi have also expressed similar views.

Ministers Express Confidence in V.P. Singh

BK0311150390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Four union ministers of state have expressed confidence in the leadership of the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh. In separate statements Mr. Harikishore Singh, Mr. Bhajman Behra, Mr. Upendranath Varma, and Mr. Ram Pujan Patel said the prime minister has upheld the values of secularism and social justice.

Left Parties Support Singh Leadership

BK0211152590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, has told the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, that the left parties do not support any change in the leadership of Mr. V.P. Singh. Mr. Basu met Mr. Gandhi in New Delhi last night and explained to him the stand taken by the left parties on the current political situation. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] spokesman told the AIR [All India Radio] correspondent this evening that Mr. Basu also told Mr. Rajiv Gandhi that the Congress-I should take a constructive stand in defense of secularism. The spokesman said that Mr. Basu also discussed the political crisis with the Janata Dal and other National Front allies. The situation in the country was discussed at the two-day meeting of the Politburo of the CPI-M in New Delhi.

National Front Meeting Begins; Devi Lal Absent

BK0211134490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The meeting of the National Front Presidium began in New Delhi this afternoon to take stock of the latest political developments at the center. The Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, is presiding. Besides the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, others attending include the Janata Dal chief, Mr. S.R. Bommai, Mr. Karunanidhi, DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], Mr. P.K. Mahanta, AGP [Asom Gana Parishad], Mr. K.P. Unni Krishnan, Congress-S, Mr. P. Upendra, Telugu Desam, the chief minister of Bihar, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, and Mr. Jaipal Reddy. Mr. Devi Lal is reported to be not attending the meeting.

The Janata Dal chief ministers, Mr. Biju Patnaik and Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, have expressed concern against any change in the leadership of the party at the center. They have also opposed any alliance with the Congress-I to tide over the present political crisis. Their statements have come shortly before the meeting of the National Front Presidium this evening. Mr. Biju Patnaik, who met the prime minister in the morning, told reporters that the only way out now is to face elections. He said he still maintains the view that the leadership change will not solve the problem. The Bihar Chief Minister Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav said he had talked to the Uttar Pradesh chief minister and he is also against any change in the leadership of the party.

Meeting Voices 'Faith' in Singh

BK0211150290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The National Front Presidium has expressed its full faith in the leadership of Mr. V.P. Singh. In a resolution adopted after the meeting in New Delhi this evening, the Presidium ruled out any change and directed the Front not to have any alliance with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] or the Congress-I. The meeting was presided over by the Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao. It was attended by the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh; chief ministers of Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Goa, Tamil Nadu, and Pondicherry; the Janata Dal chief, Mr. S.R. Bommai, and the Congress-S president, Mr. S.C. Sinha. Union ministers—Mr. P. Upendra, Mr. Murasoli Maran, Mr. Dinesh Goswami, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, and Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan—were the special inviteers.

Alliances Ruled Out

BK0211164390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The National Front Presidium has ruled out any alliance with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] or the Congress-I to tide over the crisis facing the V.P. Singh government. At its two-hour-long meeting in New Delhi this evening, the Presidium banned the BJP parties in their common support to the prime minister.

Briefing reporters, the Front spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said the leadership of Mr. Yashwantrao Patwa Singh was not questioned at the meeting. He said the Presidium took note of all provisions, possibilities and even considered the question of a mid-term poll, but the situation being fluid, no view was taken. The Presidium meeting came at the end of day-long parleys in the wake of stepped up dissident activity in the Janata Dal.

In a statement, the Presidium criticized the BJP for mixing religion with politics and getting involved directly in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue. It also charged the Congress-I with cynical disregard of the basic issues involved in the situation and joining hands with the BJP against the prime minister.

Recalling various achievements of the National Front government, the Presidium complimented the prime minister for standing by the commitment to secular principles and the rule of law despite the BJP's withdrawal of support. It also appreciated the firm and restrained manner in which the Uttar Pradesh and Bihar chief ministers handled the situation created by the *kar seva* [voluntary service to build the Hindu temple in Ayodhya] and Rath Yatra [BJP leader Advani's journey to the disputed temple site in Ayodhya]. The National Front appealed to the people to foil the designs of fundamentalists who are posing a threat to the basic secular framework of the Constitution and the unity of the country.

In a resolution, the Front Presidium expressed its deep anguish over the spread of communal violence and conveyed its condolences to the bereaved families.

Replying to a volley of questions regarding the Gujarat chief minister's action of accepting the Congress-I support, the National Front spokesman said the Presidium meeting took note of the developments but did not discuss the issue as Mr. Chimanbhai Patel was not

present. The Presidium meeting was presided over by the National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao. The Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh chief ministers did not attend the meeting as they were busy at the state level, while the Haryana chief minister was preoccupied with a Cabinet meeting in Chandigarh.

Minister Will Not Attend

BR051104690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The deputy minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr. Jagdip Dhankar, has resigned. He sent his resignation to the prime minister this morning.

Talking to newsmen, Mr. Dhankar said the present government is just pushing the country toward a mid-term poll, which, in his opinion, will jeopardize the unity and integrity of the country and aggravate communal tension.

He said he took the decision to resign after a meeting with Mr. Devi Lal. The Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chiman Bhai Patel, who also presided over the meeting, Mr. Dhankar said, is deeply upset with the decision of the National Front Presidium not to have any truck with the BJP or the Congress-I.

Replying to questions, he said there is a strong possibility of a group in the Janata Dal voting against the confidence motion on the 7th of November. Mr. Dhankar said he will not rule out any option for a viable alternative consistent with secular values. He said he will not attend the National Front Parliamentary party meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Dhankar is the third minister to tender his resignation after Mrs. Maneka Gandhi and Mr. Bhakta Charan Das.

Forming Government Ruled Out

BR041109Z690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The National Front's Parliamentary Party has unanimously ruled out the formation of any national government. The party also decided not to have any understanding or arrangement with the Congress-I or the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. The question of dissolution of Parliament has been left to the president.

Briefing newsmen, Mr. Dinesh Goswami said the prime minister has said that we will prefer to sit in the opposition but will not compromise on the principles.

The meeting expressed full confidence in the leadership of Mr. V.P. Singh.

Mr. V.P. Singh is presiding over the meeting. [passage omitted]

Talking to newsmen before the meeting, the Janata Dal president [S.R. Bommai] said there will be no split in the party. Some union ministers, who came after the meeting, said that they have expressed confidence in the leadership of Mr. V.P. Singh.

Three union ministers—Mr. Arun Nehru, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, and Mr. Satyapal Malik—told newsmen that they are going to see the West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, and will be back soon.

Senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Devi Lal, today asked the prime minister Mr. V.P. Singh to step down from the leadership of the Janata Dal Parliamentary Party. Addressing a news conference at his residence this morning, he said this will enable exploration of the possibilities of realignment of political forces so that the National Front government can fulfill its pledges to the electorate. [passage omitted]

Mr. Devi Lal, who did not attend the National Front parliamentary party meeting, said that he did not agree with the decision of the National Front presidium regarding the continued leadership of Mr. V.P. Singh. Whatever decision is to be taken should be that of the Janata Dal.

On correspondents' reports that Mr. Devi Lal held the press conference at his residence about the same time when the National Front parliamentary party was going on, Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, also arrived at the residence of Mr. Devi Lal, when the press conference was going on. Talking to newsmen, he said that the Janata Dal parliamentary party would elect a new leader at its meeting tomorrow.

More on 4 Nov Meeting

BR041130Z90 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] The National Front has ruled out the formation of any national government or to have any truck with the Congress-I or the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party). The Front's Parliamentary Party, which met in New Delhi today, unanimously endorsed the stand taken by the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh. In all, 136 members, including 90 from the Lok Sabha and 46 from the Rajya Sabha, out of the total National Front's strength of 211 members, attended the meeting held in the context of current political uncertainties and a special session of the Lok Sabha on Wednesday [7 November] to test the majority support to the prime minister. Front sources said another 12 Lok Sabha members, who could not attend today's meeting for different reasons, have communicated in writing their solidarity with Mr. V.P. Singh. Mr. Devi Lal, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, and the three ministers—Mrs. Maneka Gandhi, Mr. Bhakta Charan Das, and Mr. Jagdip Dhankar—who have resigned from the council of ministers were not present.

Briefing newsmen, the Front's spokesman, Mr. P. Upendra, said the meeting unanimously felt that nothing should be done to frustrate the people's mandate in the last Lok Sabha elections, which was clearly against the Congress-I.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. V.P. Singh said the National Front has taken a principled stand and is prepared to sit in the opposition rather than compromise on basis issues. Analyzing the current political situation, he said the formation of a national government is not a practicable proposition. Criticizing the BJP for mixing politics with religion, Mr. V.P. Singh said attention has been diverted to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue, while the National Front has been sincerely trying to implement its manifesto.

The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, called on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] this evening. The meeting lasted about 20 minutes. He is understood to have apprised the president of the current political situation and the measures taken to maintain law and order.

Parliamentary Party Split

BK0511065390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0650 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The split in the Janata Dal Parliamentary Party has come out in the open with the dissident group electing Mr. Chandra Shekhar as their leader. As the Janata Dal Parliamentary Party began its deliberations at Parliament House Annex, the news came that Mr. Chandra Shekhar's name was proposed by Mr. Devi Lal at whose residence the dissidents are meeting. Mr. Chandra Shekhar's election was announced by Mr. Ashoke Sen who has been spearheading the campaign for the removal of Mr. V.P. Singh. He said that their's is the real Janata Dal Party. The dissidents have claimed that about 58 Lok Sabha MP's [members of parliament] are attending the meeting. Earlier, the dissidents had dispatched an emissary to Parliament House Annex with an ultimatum to elect Mr. Chandra Shekhar as the leader or else the group will do so on its own.

These developments have come as Mr. V.P. Singh declared that he would not recommend dissolution of Lok Sabha to the president. In a statement today, Mr. Singh said that the National Front members will sit in the opposition if the government fails to secure a majority on the floor of the house in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

A spokesman of the Devi Lal-Chandra Shekhar group claimed that they have enough members to form an alternative government with the support of other parties.

The railway minister Mr. George Fernandes who emerged from the Janata Dal parliamentary party meeting, claimed that 110 MP's are attending the meeting being presided over by Mr. V.P. Singh. However, he did not specify how many Lok Sabha MP's were present.

In a related development, the communications minister, Mr. Janeshwar Mishra, resigned from the Union Cabinet and joined the dissidents. With this resignation, the number of ministers who have quit the government has gone up to six.

Chandra Shekhar Elected

BK0511091990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The Janata Dal has split and the dissident group has elected Mr. Chandra Shekhar as its leader. On the other hand, the Janata Dal Parliamentary Party meeting convened by Mr. V.P. Singh expressed confidence in his leadership and authorized him to deal with the present crisis according to the programs and policies of the party. The meeting presided over by Mr. V.P. Singh was boycotted by dissident MP's [members of parliament] led by Mr. Chandra Shekhar and Mr. Devi Lal. While the Chandra Shekhar-Devi Lal group claimed that their meeting was attended by 68 Lok Sabha and 14 Rajya Sabha members, the Janata Dal parliamentary party spokesman said the party's meeting was attended by 85 members from the Lok Sabha and 26 from the Rajya Sabha. The UNI [United News] correspondent says the total strength of the Janata Dal parliamentary party is 140 members in the Lok Sabha and 54 in the Rajya Sabha and, since votes cast is by common in both the bodies.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar says he is hoping to take his claim to the formation of a government. Addressing a crowded news conference soon after his election, he said he would be seeking support of all political parties but without any preconditions.

The high drama that has been going on in the last few days reached its climax with the dissident MP's holding a parallel meeting at Mr. Devi Lal's residence, while the Janata Dal parliamentary party met at the parliament house annex in New Delhi this morning. Mr. Devi Lal proposed the name of Mr. Chandra Shekhar as leader of the party. Mr. Devi Lal claimed that Mr. Chandra Shekhar's election was unanimous. The meeting removed Mr. V.P. Singh from the leadership as Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the prime minister has refused to step down ignoring the persistent demand of party MP's. On the other hand, the Janata Dal parliamentary party adopted a resolution expressing full confidence in Mr. V.P. Singh and authorized him to take any future course of action. The resolution which was moved by Professor Madhu Dandavate was objected to Mr. S.P. Malaviya who said that Mr. V.P. Singh should step down to facilitate election of a new leader for the sake of the party unity. Later, he staged a walkout.

A party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, described the meeting of the dissident group at Mr. Devi Lal's residence as illegal. He said the party president, Mr. S.R. Bommai had made last minute efforts to ensure unity and had asked the dissident group to attend the meeting and prove their majority through a secret ballot. Mr. Reddy said even a ballot box was kept ready for the purpose. Mr. Reddy maintained that there is no split in the party and said any split has come through constitutional procedure [sentence as heard]. He said nowhere has Mr. V.P. Singh as parliamentary party leader lost his full powers to take action against the dissidents.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar when questioned about the legality of the meeting said that he is not bothered about it. Whatever decision has been taken us is valid for us. What others think is not of our concern. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that he will try to enlist the support of all political parties and will have no hesitation in meeting the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and others for this purpose. Hed has no immediate plans to meet the president and things may be sorted out in a day or two.

The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, addressing the parliamentary party meeting made it clear that he was not for the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. About the formation of a national coalition government, "... and there is no concrete proposal so far. Also no constituent of the National Front or Left parties are in favor of forming a government with the Congress-I. The Janata Dal chief, Mr. Somnai, and Mr. Mr. V.P. Singh is keeping an open mind on the formation of a national coalition government. He said the communal situation is very bad, and the unity of the party is essential to meet the challenge.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[Text] The National Front sources have strongly refuted the Congress-I allegation that two cabinet ministers have sought the support of the party in the test of strength in the government in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday [7 November]. The sources said that this is a mischievous and malicious attempt to malign the National Front and the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh.

Our correspondent reports that Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, had told newsmen this evening that one cabinet minister had telephoned Mr. Rajiv Gandhi today and another minister talked to a Congress-I chief minister, both of them suggesting that the Congress-I support the National Front government on the floor of the Lok Sabha and all other issues, including the leadership issue, may be sorted out later. In spite of persistent questions by the newsmen, Mr. Gadgil refused to identify the cabinet ministers. The National Front sources say that Mr. Gadgil's refusal to name the ministers is sufficient proof itself that there is not an iota of truth in the allegation, which has been levied to create confusion and discredit the government, which has taken a principled stand and is prepared to sacrifice power for upholding secularism.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[Text] The senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has appealed to all political parties and people to come together and resolve the crisis facing the nation. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi this evening, he said this is not the time for raising slogans against each other or indulging in unnecessary talk about others. He said the country is not governed the way it should be.

Chandra Shekhar Proposes Ties With Congress-I

BK0311131790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, says that the Gujarat experiment can be repeated at the center to tide over the present political crisis. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi this evening, he said it was he who persuaded Mr. Chiman Bhai Patel, to seek the Congress-I support in Gujarat.

Answering a question, he said if the National Front government could seek the Congress-I support for postponing elections in Punjab, why can this be not done to form a government at the center. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the V.P. Singh government is not relevant to the present situation and felt that any government that emerges would be a better government. He said that government would be stable at least till the time the present grave situation in the country improves.

Prime Minister Calls For United Country

BK0311013290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that the issue today before the government is not to remain in power but to keep the nation united. Addressing a large gathering to mark the Guru Nanak Jyanti [birthday of Sikh Guru Nanak] in New Delhi today, he said he did not hesitate to choose between these options and decided to forego power.

Referring to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babir Masjid [disputed shrine] issue, the prime minister said the government tried its best to find an amicable solution through negotiations. He said no one objected to the construction of the temple, but it should be built on the undisputed site.

Singh Calls For Resistance to Disintegration

BK0311162990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that the attempts by the communal forces to disintegrate the country will be resisted at all costs. Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh was addressing the state convention of the ruling left democratic front in Cochin today. He alleged that the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has an ulterior motive to establish a theocratic order in the country. The prime minister said that the time has come to choose between power and principle and the National Front government has decided to choose principle, sacrificing power. Mr. Singh said, during the last 10 months, the government has been able to implement progressive programs.

In his presidential address, the state chief minister, Mr. Nayanar, called upon all secular forces to be united against divisive forces.

Later, Mr. V.P. Singh witnessed a huge rally organized by the Backward Classes Unity Forum.

BJP Says Midterm Polls Solution to Crisis

BK0511093190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] says a government to be formed by a breakaway Janata Dal group with Congress-I support will not solve the current political impasse, but can only postpone elections for a brief while. This view was expressed at the end of the BJP pareliamentary party meeting held in New Delhi this morning. It felt that only mid-term poll is a way out at the present juncture and said if its suggestion is not accepted and a new government takes over, the BJP will act as an effective opposition.

Besides Mr. L. K. Advani, the meeting was attended by several party MP's [members of parliament] including Mr. Vajpayee who has been released from detention. Mr. Vajpayee chaired the meeting. Members observed a two-minute silence in memory of those killed during the kar seva [voluntary service to build temple] in Ayodhya.

Devi Lal Views Midterm Polls

BK0211151990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Devi Lal, has said the political situation in the country is moving in a way which will make a national government a necessity. He said the Janata Dal is not keen on midterm polls and several party MP's [members of parliament] have conveyed their feelings about this to him.

Mr. Devi Lal said he will not be attending the National Front parliamentary party meeting on Sunday but will put forth his views at the Janata Dal meeting on Monday.

Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Mr. Devi Lal said all parties, including the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], should sit together and find a solution to the vexed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue. He said an all-religion complex be built at the disputed site after acquiring it as a monument to real secularism.

Iran

Nationwide Ceremonies Protest 'Global Arrogance'

Statement Urges Participation

LD0311133190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] On the eve of the 4 November National Day of Struggle Against Global Arrogance, scholars, religious personalities, ulema, clerics, Islamic revolution foundations, and various organizations, issuing separate statements today, invited compatriots for a massive participation in the 4 November ceremonies.

The association of the Qom Seminary Instructors [Jame'e-ye Modaresin-e Howze-ye 'Elmiye-ye Qom] issued a statement congratulating the approaching day of God, 4 November, and invited compatriots to massively participate in ceremonies on that historic day.

The statement praises the epic-creating students who vowed a bond of blood with the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the last days of the government of Taghut [the Shah's regime] and gave new momentum to the glorious Islamic revolution.

The statement adds: This year we hold the 4 November ceremonies at a time when the United States, resorting to a new ploy, has stationed itself in God's sacred house and has confronted the Islamic ummah with a serious threat. It is up to the Hezbollah ummah to take part in the ceremonies on the day of God, 4 November, to perform its revolutionary duties in the best possible form. We are confident that the eloquent call [of the nation] together with the wise policies of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, will defuse the Great Satan's new ploys.

Struggle Celebrated

LD0411111290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] On the occassion of 13 Aban [4 November], the national day of struggle against global arrogance, towns throughout the country have been turned into scenes of glorious ceremonies marking the 13 Aban Day of God. According to reports, pupils, students, and staff from educational establishments and universities, as well as various strata of people, have all come out to commemorate the [anniversary of] the 13 Aban Day of God as a turning point in the history of the tumultous movement of the Islamic revolution of Iran. In Tehran, too, the ceremonies marking the day of struggle against global arrogance will begin in front of the former U.S. den of spies, at 1430 [1100 GMT] with a message from His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Marchers Adopt Resolution

LD0411211490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Report on 14-point resolution approved by marchers at the "antiglobal arrogance march" marking the 11th anniversary of the taking of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran on 4 November]

[Text] The resolution praises the revolutionary and fervent action of young students in occupying the U.S. den of corruption, and it says in part: The occupation of

the U.S. den of espionage was, in fact, a declaration of war against the various cultural, propaganda, political, economic, and military policies of a government which had inflicted its hegemony over half the world and which thought of itself as the indisputable leader of the world.

The resolution also stresses the continuation of the struggles of the Islamic ummah of Iran against global arrogance, and the marchers declare their readiness to obey the guidelines of the leader of the Islamic Revolution for the sake of confronting any political, military, or economic conspiracy.

Elsewhere in the resolution, the conspiracies of the region's servile leaders, especially those of the regime ruling over Hijaz [Saudi Arabia], in calling the U.S. and the West to the holy land of Muslims, are condemned; condemnation is expressed for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and support is given to the liberation movements of Muslim nations, especially Palestine and Lebanon.

The resolution also stresses the immutability of the principles of the line of the imam and the guidelines of the eminent leader of the Islamic Revolution in decision-making and raises the need for drawing up a strategy for the long-term confrontation of the numerous conspiracies of arrogance. The preparedness of Muslim university students for widespread participation in the country's economic reconstruction is also declared in the resolution.

In the resolution, the Union of Islamic Students' Associations refers to the cultural conspiracies of the enemies of the Islamic Revolution, especially in bringing about the moral and spiritual corruption of youth, and asks for a serious and vigilant confrontation of that conspiracy by the country's officials.

At the end of the resolution, all strata of the people are asked to struggle without fail in the trench of knowledge and work and to lay the foundation for the coming into being of the rule of justice and fairness under the leadership of the Imam Mahdi, may God hasten his noble advent, by completely breaking the dependence on the super-criminals.

U.S. Flag Burned at Embassy

LD0411220590 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Tehran, Nov 4, IRNA—A large group of people marching towards the former U.S. den of espionage (embassy) in Tehran today chanted 'Death to the U.S.' and set ablaze the American flag to display their hatred of global arrogance led by the U.S.

The marchers coming from various directions gathered outside the former U.S. den of espionage overrun by a group of university students known as the Muslim Students Following the Imam's Path on this day in 1979, and began chanting anti-U.S. slogans and setting afire the stars and stripes. The occupation of the U.S. Embassy reflected the Iranian people's wrath against the domination of their country by the U.S. over the past decades and its full-scale support for the corrupt monarchial regime ruling Iran.

The 4th November also marks the anniversary of the 1963 exile of the late Imam Khomeyni to Turkey by the deposed Shah's regime as well as the gunning down of dozens of students and pupils on Tehran University campus in 1979 by troops loyal to the Shah.

Later, a message from the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i was read to the demonstrators. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Condemns U.S. Arrogance

LD0511010690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Message by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, marking the 11th anniversary of the taking of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran on 4 November—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Those who became infidels tried to kill you or discard you, and they plotted and planned, and God, too, planned. But, God is the best of planners.

Among the lofty days of the revolution, which revive the memory of our brave and victorious nation's struggle, and each of which bears a memory of our great deceased Imam, the 13th of aban [4 Nov] is particularly important for its diverse dimensions and fundamental message. This day of God clearly demonstrated how different bloody ranks confronted each other. That is, the front of the aggressor and the aggrieved; the front of arrogance and hegemony led by the United States, and the front of justice led by its torch-bearer and imam, Khomeyni the Great. The glory of this day, for three different reasons, is clear and will teach a lesson to today's and tomorrow's generations.

On the eve of a day like today, the rough and smeared hands of the arrogant front abducted the imam of the justice front from his small house, where he used to confront all the arrogant palace-dwellers and where he used to bring a ray of hope to the oppressed. They foolishly tried to unleash their anger against abolition of the capitualtion trick. That was the maximum the arrogance could do on that day, and it did so not realizing that the dear Yusef [Joseph] will remain Yusef even at the bottom of a well. What a futile dream!

Years after that occasion, on another similar day on the eve of advent of the sun of justice, the sinister hand of arrogance aimlessly fired on a number of young pupils and shed the blood of these fresh spring leaves. But, the blood of these innocent dear ones, once again, trapped these man-eating devils, when the wave of the aware people's wrath washed away the debris which had blocked the path of victory, thanks to the divine outlook of our indefatigable leader.

Yet again on a day like today, during the tumultous period of the revolution, when Noah of the revolution had masterfully steered the ship of the revolution amidst the rough waves of events and had anchored in the safehaven, the mighty hand of the revolution got hold of the arrogance collar and dragged it down from the false throne of invincibility, which their propaganda lies had created in the minds of the unsuspecting masses of the world, and, the United States brought happiness to the hearts of the world's meek nations. The enthusiastic representatives of the students turned the den of the plotters and spies into their prison and showed the world the uncompromising stance of the liberating Islam against tyrannic blasphemy. From that day, our Islamic revolution, which had reached victory by fighting against oppression and tyranny of the puppet regime, removed the last ray of hope from the hearts of the global greedy opportunists. [passage omitted]

In these triple events, from the exalted imam's exile in 1963-64 following his protest against the immunity enjoyed by U.S. advisers to the killing of students in 1978 and to the occupation of the den of spies in the year 1979, there was confrontation between the Islamic Revolution, on the one side, and the United States and its puppet regime in Iran, on the other. This struggle, which continued in between these three events and before and after them, defined the nature of Islam and the Islamic Revolution, their aims and path, and also exposed the true face and identity of global arrogance and its manifestation—the United States—her methods, and the degree of her strength and vulnerability. More important, it defines the clear line of the trend of struggle between justice and injustice and clarifies the manner of this trend's development and the direction in which it moves.

Studying this hope-inspiring trend shows that every time the front of justice resists and demonstrates self-sacrifices, the front of injustice—whoever, whatever and however large it may be—cannot stand up to it and will be forced to withdraw. Neither the leaders of the U.S. regime nor their abject puppets in Iran, in the 1963-64, who took our imam, alone and helpless, from Qom to Tehran and from here to his exile, imagined that soon they themselves would become hostages to their own tyrannical actions. They did not understand that this Satanic conspiracy and this revengeful onslaught against the front of justice would, in one go, turn into tools for God's designs against them and would prepare the grounds for the downfall of the tyrannical, monarchical power and the decline or the empire of arrogance.

Even though the occupation of the den of plots and espionage, inspired by the decree of the exalted imam and by addresses to students and pupils about extending the demonstrations, counted as a reaction to the front of arrogance's onslaught against the revolution, it was, at the same time, an elementary jihad against arrogance and a sign that it was the turn of the front of justice to rise. It was also a sign that it was the turn of the colonialist stands to disintegrate and the U.S. authority to be smashed and their years of propaganda to frighten nations to be rejected.

That same powerful empire, who at one point claimed to be master, whose advisers and nationals enjoyed diplomatic immunity in Iran, who counted as an unrivalled and dominant power for almost 30 years in the political, military, and economic decision-taking arena of Iran, and who always gave priority to its own illegitimate interests over the interests of the Iranian nation—as if these privileges were owed to it—now felt defeated and powerless in the face of the movement of a devoted group of this revolutionary nation and began to show fear. Through the alertness and decisive resolve of the Iranian nation, which sprang from its impassioned faith, not only the Iranian nation but also Muslim nations—who had become completely despondent toward themselves and their strength and even toward the power of Islam due to the constant persuasions of anti-Islamic powers during the past half a century or so—received a message containing hope, joy, and confidence from each of the episodes of the revolution and from every remark or sign from the imam, from the revolution and from every movement on the part of the people. They gained confidence in their own strength while becoming aware of the inherent weakness of arrogance.

If the world witnesses the fact that, since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran Muslim nations everywhere in the world are moving self-confidently toward a return to their Islamic identity and culture, it is exactly because the self-sacrificing resistance of the Iranian nation has foiled this the arrogant and colonial crafty notion that Eastern and Islamic nations are not able to force European powers and the United States to withdraw and has shown up where real power lies: Real power lies with faithful people. When faced with such people, no material power—however big or equipped—will not be able to exert its will. This is the biggest lesson to be learned from 4 November. [passage omitted]

Yet, the lesson to be learned from that day is an exceptional one. Regrettably, most of the politicians of Islamic countries show a lack of appreciation toward the huge power of their nation and couple this with helplessness vis-a-vis foreign powers. Instead of benefitting from the great opportunity which the victory of the Islamic Revolution brought for them and instead of taking another look at their unhealthy and humiliating relations with the United States and Europe, they clumsily adopted a hostile stand toward this liberating and blessed revolution which took their peoples to its heart. As a result, they fell more and more into the quagmire of hostility toward their own nations and into the trappings of the bullyings and impositions of the satanic powers. They mistakenly thought that glory lay with the United States, contrary to the Koranic saying: Greatness Comes From Unity. The punishment for this misconception and misconduct is that they will remain helplessly worried over their own fate and the fate of their governments, which have no reliable source of backing. They

should sense through experience that, in moments of danger, the United States and other arrogant powers are unable to reassure them. They should try hard to understand it is not true that the United States can do whatever it wants; it is a lie.

The events in the Persian Gulf yesterday and today are another lesson to be learned, disproving the narrative of U.S. invincibility and clearly demonstrating the weakness and abjectness of those governments that depend on a power other than their own nation. It also demonstrates clearly, and will go on demonstrating in the future, the unfaithfulness and helplessness of big powers when it comes to defending their dependent and puppet governments.

We thank God that the people of Iran—who have ears that distinguish the truth and eyes that recognize the truth—learned the great lessons of life from the great revolution and their wise leader and whose faith in the justness of this path became more profound with the fulfillment of defined promises.

Our nation sensed with all its being and tasted the sweet flavor of one victory after another: victory over the dependant monarchical regime, victory over U.S. ploys and conspiracies, victory over the military front advanced by the East and West, victory over economic blockade, victory over the worldwide political propaganda front, and victory over many problems which were created for them by those same enemies. All these victories were achieved thanks to reliance on islam, the preservation of independence and nondependence on foreigners, taking refuge in God, and the united struggle of the people behind their unparallel and unique leader.

Our nation saw with its own eyes the disintegration of the Eastern Bloc and the futility of the Soviet Union's superpower claim and the decadence of a doctrine and an establishment which had blatantly turned its back on divine tenets. During the length of the imposed war, it joined hands with the United States to be spiteful and hostile toward our people, who revolted for the sake of God and spiritual values. All those politicians who were leading that empire of might and depending on it have faded away shamefully from the pages of history.

Our nation has observed, and is continuing to observe, how helpless and incapable the Western bloc is in protecting its subservient governments, which were breathing with the hope of receiving help from them, and it was thanks to this hope that they closed military and political ranks against the Islamic Republic. Our nation has seen how incapable that bloc is even in trying to solve its own economic and social problems and to remove its domestic and foreign entanglements.

Our nation therefore, in various instances of its life, experiences the sweet taste of independence and nonreliance upon these superficial and hollow powers. This is a great gift and our talented and experienced nation should appreciate it, be grateful for it, and safeguard it. The Iranian nation should know, and no doubt it knows, that a solution to all its major and minor problems, which have been mostly inherited from the satanic era of the rule of the aliens over this country, or are the consequences of the war imposed by the same grudge-bearing and hegemonist aliens, is only through this way; that is, through reliance on Islam, united struggle, independence from the aliens and enemies, defending the oppressed, and through the struggle against hegemony and hegemonists and refusal to submit in the face of tricks, plots, expections, and imposition of arrogance led by the United States.

If some in the Islamic Republic were to imagine that by granting concessions to the United States and others they would reach the goals and objectives of the Islamic system, they are grossly mistaken. Such false assumptions are ingratitude for the resounding victories achieved by our Muslim nation under the banner of relying on God, steadfastness, and endeavor. Being ungrateful and overlooking God's gift is a bane, from which one should seek refuge with God. The camp of the capitalist arrogance is frightened and deeply concerned vis-a-vis the revival of Islamic might; and considers it an alarm bell against its illegal exploitation of vital resources of the entire world, and even consider Islamic revival an alarm bell, against its survival.

If some were to imagine that the United States, which is the main center of this corrupt and seditious camp, might feel sympathetic and plans to compromise and assist the Islamic system, which is the center of Islam's mighty life, they have been thinking gullibly. Today, the might and glory of the Islamic Republic, which is the fruit of the martyrs' blood, the nation's self-sacrifices and indescribable hard works of the pious, competent, and sympathetic authorities, even compels the leaders of arrogance to put a mask of friendship and hypocritically claim to be friends, without taking even one step toward the friendship that they claim.

Who fails to see the United States' hand behind the shameful crimes of the Zionists in Palestine today—the Zionists who have surpassed everyone in the act of shedding blood with impudence? Who can exonerate United States officials from the ruthless massacre of the Palestinians? And who fails to understand the United States regime's hegemonistic objectives in the Persian Gulf by reading between the lines from their remarks and behavior? Of course, any hegemonistic move of the aliens in the Persian Gulf will be confronted by strong response of the Muslim and zealous nations of this region, and the hand of any aggressor will be cut off.

Our nation must maintain and augment the power and the glory it had achieved under the shadow of Islam, unity, and struggle. The slightest inclination toward surrendering to the treacherous foe will blow away this asset, which was gained through the greatest of sacrifices, thus making the arrogant foe even more impudent than before.

Now I will make a few points to the dear nation and officials:

1. I say to my dear, revolutionary children and brothers, youngsters, pupils and students, after whom this great day was named, that the lion's share of the responsibility of the revolution is, and will be, on your shoulders; that dear Islam, the martyrs, the great imam, and the earnest nation have set their eyes and hopes on you and expect you to strive hard and take advantage of opportunities to attain the ideals and goals of the great Islamic revolution and strengthen and deepen your religious wisdom and knowledge. [passage omitted]

2. I recommend to all the strata of the dear nation, particularly those who have a greater awareness of the present facts in Iran and the world, to bear and mind, more than anything else, the principle of preserving unity of expression and the solidarity of the nation. [passage omitted]

Our great, talented, and joyous country has a great many roads to travel. Paths that lead to prosperity for our nation and affect the lives of the people of the world. Roads that lead to security, prosperity, spiritualism, not only in our country, but throughout the Islamic region, and even the world. Ways which the world's hegemonistic powers have denied dominated countries since the start of colonialism, that is for over 200 years, and which had been denied to our dear country, like other Islamic countries.

Today it is our country and our nation that dare to travel on these roads, with the certainty that the interference and imposition of satanic powers cannot prevent its movement and stability. Adherence to the deep faith in Islam and release from the influence and domination of arrogant powers have given our nation and country an opportunity which few other nations have had. But the main criterion is national unity and solidarity, without which whatever exists is in vain. [passage omitted]

That is why, to undermine the nation's unity, the enemy has made a great deal of material and non-material investment. Groups, factions, individuals and organizations, whenever they find their actions harmful to national unity, must cease such actions. [passage omitted]

Writers and speakers must beware that the immediate harm from inter-group squabbles is to distract them from important global and regional issues and their duty to the nation. Its greater harm is to isolate them from the nation.

3. Reciprocal sincerity between the nations, the government and the serving apparata has always been, and should continue to be, one of the biggest secrets of the success of the Islamic Republic.

The beloved nation must appreciate the serving government, the worthy president, heads and members of Judiciary and Legislative, and by its support, love, and advice reciprocate their invaluable endeavors. The serving authorities of the state, compares to those who have the same responsibilities in other countries, are exceptional and outstanding human beings. They are from the people, for the people, and appreciators of the ills of the people. This is the greatest of values for bearers of such responsibilities. Someone who is familiar with the lives, behaviors, and relationships of political and governmental personalities will thank God for having such statesmen who have drunk from the font of Islam and have been nurtured in the imam's school.

I also remind the serving and deserving government that this great and devoted nation, especially the deprived strata and the barefoot who have always carried the main burden of the revolution and the country on their shoulders, rightly deserve service and merit sincerity. In all schemes and decisions, it is imperative that before all else the vindication of the people's rights, safeguarding of their welfare and peace of mind, material and spiritual development and safeguarding their esteem and honor are considered.

If in the past eras, all capital, money, jobs, education, and prosperity—in short all charitable deeds—were used for comfort of the well-off, and the weak strata of the society—that is, the majority—was always forgotten, the Islamic system must exert all its efforts in filling the deep economic and social divisions between the rich and poor and utilize the state's material and spiritual assets for serving the needy, to whom the country owes its life.

Every moment of the life of the authorities that is spent on deeds and thoughts in serving the people has been spent in worship. Let not state authorities, whose greatest pride is serving the people, leave one moment devoid of this worship. In conclusion, I honor the memory of the student and pupil martyrs and wish them God's blessing and grace and ask Almighty God for all success for all strata of the beloved people. May God's peace and mercy be upon you all.

[Signed] 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i

Emami-Kashani on Role of U.S.

LD0211120390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] On the eve of 4 November, the national day of struggle against global arrogance and students' day, the revolutionary and struggling compatriots attended Friday prayer sites and performed the immortal Muhammadan rites.

Meanwhile, Tehran's glorious Friday prayers were held at Tehran University and the adjacent streets with the massive participation of the Hezbollah ummah. Ayatollah Emami-Kashani led the prayers.

In the prayer sermons, Tehran's interim Friday prayer leader referred to the upcoming 4 November, which marks the anniversary of the exile of the imam of ummah, Students' Day, and the takeover of the Den of Spies. He said: Through access to the Den of Spies' documents and records, it became clear that America was involved in hatching plots against the Iranian nation, the revolution, and Islam in that place. The Muslim students, followers of the line of the imam,

ended America's domination in Iran via its takeover and by holding a few mercenaries hostage.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani referred to the remarks of our late imam and said: The occupation of the Den of Spies and taking hostage a group of spies were natural reactions to the oppressive measures exerted by America on the Iranian nation. He added: How can the Iranian nation forget the slogan of Death to America after what it has suffered at the hands of the American ringleaders?

The Jurisconsult member of the Council of Guardians condemned the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and termed the presence of alien forces—in particular the Americans and its allies—in the Persian Gulf as a threat to the Islamic countries and the world. He said as the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced that the security of the Persian Gulf should be left to the region's countries.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani added: All the American and the arrogance's efforts at raising a hue and cry in the region are aimed at diverting Muslims' attention from Palestine. Unfortunately the Al Quds occupying regime is also exploiting the situation, increasing its killing and arrest of the Palestinian strugglers, and world Muslims should be vigilant of these events.

Tehran's interim Friday prayer leader also encouraged accord among various strata of people and their siding with the government and said: All of us should pledge allegiance to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i and help the government remove problems and bottlenecks quickly.

Finally, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani gave thanks for the participation of Mr. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi [president of the Afghan Interim Government] and other guests at Tehran's Friday prayers ceremonies.

Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0211163190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1210 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani at Tehran University on 2 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] I wish to start the main topic of my discussion in this sermon from the fact that the date 4 November, on which certain ceremonies are held, is important for the following reasons: 4 November witnessed three unforgettable events in history. [passage omitted]

In the case of the imposed war they [the Americans] incited Iraq to attack us. Fortunately—fortunately as it concerns them, but the Islamic countries are very sad—they [the United States and its allies] are now caught in a quagmire. The eastern and western arrogance and their satellites joined hands and inflicted upon us whatever they wished. Not even once did they say that Iran was subjected to aggression. No matter how much our nation shouted, the international organizations of the world answered with complete silence; because the United States had told them to keep quiet. All the pressures-...[sentence incomplete]

Our illustrious imam [Khomeyni] in a statement said: We have staged a revolution. Our nation has staged a revolution and wishes to run the country itself. Is it an offense that you are attacking us in this way—and they were attacking us, but there was no one to ask why they attacked us that way. During all those ten years, all those eight years, they did not say one word in our defense in the way that they are saying about Kuwait, because the United States wished to inflict all those calamities upon us. The sufferings which were inflicted upon our nation by the United States have not been inflicted on us from any other source. How can our nation ever forget the slogan of Death to America [crowd chants the slogan of Death to America]

As I said, these problems have been discovered by our people; they know where the difficulty lies. The United States must stop its imperialist habits if it wants the nations of the world to have a different attitude toward it. Our revolution is aginst imperialism, our people are against imperialism, our slogan is against imperialism. How can they stop our slogans? How can they withdraw from this form? Their pride and arrogance!

Now you can see that the United States has come with the excuse of opposing invasion. It has sent a large military force to the Persian Gulf region and has brought others with it, under the guise of defending the oppressed, the defense of the deprived, the defense of Kuwait, another defense of a place that has been attacked and being against invasion. It really is funny; after the invasion of our country, and that was a real invasion.

We are not saying that Iran has not invaded; the Islamic Republic [of Iran] announced from the first day that Iraq is the invader concerning the Kuwaiti question. We believe that international borders must be maintained and the geography of the region must remain the same; it must be guarded. We will not accept any change in the geography of the region. The Islamic Republic announced this on the first day. It put its foot down and announced that Iraq must withdraw; it now says that Iraq must withdraw and will continue to say so for ever.

But the issue at hand is what do you call it? Have you done this for the support of a country that has been subject to attack? Have you done this in opposition to the attacker and the oppressor? Everyone knows that you are lying. It was in your interest to do this; the world that you live in required you to take this action. The Islamic Republic has announced on many occasions that the security of the region is our own responsibility. Let go of the region. The Islamic Republic is now issuing a warning so that military confrontation does not take place in the Persian Gulf. Military confrontation will harm Islamic countries, it will harm the region. The danger of confrontation is a great one, and confrontation

will be a great calamity. The Islamic Republic believes in political solutions, it is peaceful. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, America has turned the people's attention away from Palestine. It has turned the people's thoughts away from Palestine to the Persian Gulf. The plundering Israel has used the opportunity and has expanded its arrets and crimes against the Muslims in Palestine. The thoughts are toward the Persian Gulf and they are continuing their actions. The Muslims of the world must be aware of the problems. Muslims must be awake and follow the real Islam and the religion of God. [passage omitted] God will help. This is the way that Muslims must follow until they achieve victories.

What I would like to say concerns the internal issues of our revolution, of this country. The other day I told you about how the country used to be; look at the position that Iran has in the world today. What is our external image in the world today? Is it not that the world recognizes us as a free country? A true revolutionary country based upon justice? This has been proved to all. All people, all countries, and all of the media now admit this, even though they used to sneer at us. They shall continue to sneer at us, but now the world has accepted the truth about the revolution. This is our external image. [passage omitted]

Majles Rejects Peace With U.S.

LD0411122190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] The Majles deputies signed a statement, which was read out at today's open session, honoring the Day of God, 13 Aban [4 November], the national day of struggle against world arrogance, and condemning America's military presence in the Persian Gulf region and the holy land of divine inspiration [Saudi Arabia].

The statement stresses: Combating hegemonism and the crimes of America and other cruel oppressors is one of the characteristics of the Islamic revolution. The overthrow of the unjust monarchical regime was a phase of this holy and triumphant jihad, which will continue until the aggressor America and its accomplices are driven away from the innocent and deprived nations and countries of the world, Islamic countries in particular.

Referring to America's hegemonistic policies and crimes in various parts of the world, the statement rejects any possible peace and compromise with America. It stresses: The ultimate aim of world arrogance is to weaken and destroy the nucleus of the Islamic revolution, that is the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, the responsibility of the honorable officials, the policymakers, and the great Iranian nation is extremely grave and sensitive. The world's Muslims and free-thinkers have particular expectations of the Islamic revolution.

In their statement the Majles deputies declare: The struggle against America and the serious threats made by arrogance against Islam involve persisting more and more in deeply following the ideals of the great leader of the Islamic revolution and preserving the fundamental slogans of the movement, crowned by the slogan "Death to America." The only way to preserve the integrity and honor of Islam and Islamic Iran is through the solidarity of the Muslim nation, under the protection of the supreme jurisconsult and through implementation of the shining decrees of the Koran in defending the deprived and the poor and waging holy war against infidels and oppressors.

Spokesman Rejects U.S. Ties

LD0411194190 Tehran IRNA in English 1839 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—A senior Iranian official in an interview published by a Persian daily Sunday ruled out the possibility of resumption of Tehran-Washington diplomatic ties as long as there are deep-rooted differences in the outlooks of the two countries.

"Relations between the two countries need a series of principled bases and foundations and unless these foundations are laid any talk of ties is neither meaningful nor lasting," KEYHAN quoted foreign ministry spokesman Morteza Sarmadi as saying.

Sarmadi was commenting on the 11th anniversary of the capture of the U.S. den of espionage (embassy) in Tehran by Muslim students following the imam's path and the impacts of the revolutionary move on the international and domestic scenes. "There are deep-rooted ideological differences between the U.S. and the Islamic Republic, or in a broader context the Islamic Revolution.

"We are on the side of the oppressed and justice seeking people of the globe while the U.S. is the cause of oppression in the Muslim world," he made it clear in reference to American mischiefs around the world.

Sarmadi was also quoted as saying that there is a "perpetual hostility" between the Islamic Republic and the illegal state of Israel which functions as "Washington's main base in the world of Islam".

This has naturally served to widen the gulf between Islamic Iran and the United States, he added.

The capture of the U.S. den of espionage, said Sarmadi, not only broke the myth of U.S. invincibility by "inspiring Muslim revolutionary forces to continue their righteous struggle", but also put the revolution on the offensive.

He said the takeover had its most important effect inside the country and exposed the depth of U.S. plots against the Iranian people.

In view of the West's cultural hegemony over the former regime of Iran there existed a status of credulity and confidence in the U.S., he said. "But the takeover of the den of espionage and the subsequent seizure of highly confidential documents helped Iranians realize what great dangers were threatening their revolution and put them on guard," said the Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Press Marks Takeover Anniversary

LD0311112190 Tehran IRNA in English 0947 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—Two morning dailies Saturday editorialized on 'Anniversary of November', the revolutionary takeover of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran by the Muslim students following the late imam's line, in 1980 [year as received].

'OOMHURI ESLAMI' regretted that the 11th anniversary "is going to be held while a bitter verbal dispute between political factions has just ended and the country is witnessing an unprecedented growth of social vice." the article reminded that one of the major objectives of the U.S. agents in Iran, according to the documents seized from the embassy after the takeover, was to sow discord among revolutionary forces. It described as 'simplemindedness' the idea that closure of the U.S. "den of espionage" in Iran would for ever curtail hidden hands of the great Satan for sowing discord. The daily underlined the importance of paying attention to the issue especially with regard to the presence of 250,000 U.S. forces in the region. As for social vice, the daily noted that along with vicious attempts of U.S. agents to promulgate corruption in the society, recently proposals have been made for reopening of video clubs in Iran. It warned officials of the Islamic republic to pay further attention to the dimensions of the campaign against the U.S., especially against social corruption.

"We make a big blunder if we think that the enemy's investment in the fields of culture, ethics and information is inferior to its investment in battle fields," stressed the daily. "Therefore", it concluded, "we have no alternative other than focusing our efforts on an anti-American struggle and make a serious investment in this connection."

On the same subject, the English daily 'KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL' wrote that the takeover of the U.S. Embassy gave a good lesson to the U.S. and showed enemies of the Islamic Revolution of Iran that "they would have to pay a heavy price for their hostility."

"Over the past decade, Washington's animosity toward Iran was proved on a number of occasions. They ranged from the imposed war, to the U.S. Navy attacks on Iran's oil fields, sinking of an Iranian cargo ship (Iran Ajr), and the savage attack on a passenger plane killing all its 290 passengers," said the daily. It added that evidence shows that there has been no "basic change in Washington's attitude towards the Islamic world" and that the U.S. continues to dominate the heart of the Islamic world's oil rich region. On occupation of "land of revelation", it said that Muslims were looking for an opportunity to voice their hatred against the occupiers and take some action against the enemies of Islam, particulary the U.S. Presence of NATO forces and their domination on the most sensitive and strategic points of the Islamic world is not justified under any pretext, said the daily.

"Therefore, it should be ended in whatever way possible and at whatever cost in order to revive the lost glory of the Muslims," the paper stressed. It advised Muslim nations not to remain "silent observers" of these repugnent scenes and not to wait for others, "even for their subservient governments to take action." The article concluded by saying that these nations should fulfil their own responsibility in driving the invaders out of the holy lands of Islam and thus revive the lost glory of Muslims and the magnificence of the world of Islam.

President Says U.S. 'Imposed' War on Nation

LD0411122690 Tehran IRNA in English 1101 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a meeting here Sunday with Exemplary Basiji (volunteer) students from throughout the country said that the U.S. imposed a war on Iran after it was defeated in its attempt to damage the Islamic revolution from within.

The president recalled that after the U.S. "den of espionage" (former U.S. Embassy) in Tehran was taken by the students following the line of the late Imam Khomeyni on November 4, 1979, documents seized revealed U.S. conspiracies against the revolution.

More on November 4 which is also the students day, the president stressed that the students are pillars of the country and added that the nation, the youth in particular, must be vigilant and preserve the values of the Islamic revolution.

He also urged the students to follow the leader's line and guidelines of late Imam Khomeyni. Also present in the meeting were Education Minister Mohammad 'Ali Najafi and commander of Basiji forces of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp Alireza Afshar who renewed students' allegiance to the leader and their support for the president.

Views Gulf Crisis, Economy

LD0211184590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Video interview with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified reporter during his tour of the earthquake striken areas of Gilan Province; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reporter] In view of the regional situation and the propaganda war between America and Iraq, how do you evaluate the Persian Gulf crisis, and what is the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] [video shows Hashemi-Rafsanjani surrounded by a number of clerics and civilians standing in an open space near a village. There are also occasional shots of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his entourage visiting various locations, and at times talking

to crowds of people] I still have a lot to say [about the quake-stricken areas], but do not ask any more questions [about it]. We will return to them later.

Regarding the Persian Gulf crisis, we normally make our comments in the areas which have not been affected by the earthquake. In Tehran they ask us about this issue and we make comments. But generally speaking, we continue to be worried. I see the security of the region seriously threatened. There are no signs yet that Iraq has come to its senses and is going to withdraw. I also see no reason why this Iraqi position should be tolerated. In any case, this major change in the region [the occupation of Kuwait] is intolerable. Neither we nor other countries of the region can accept it. Therefore, there are worries that we may be faced with a clash. However, we will try, we will make every effort to prevent this war, because it will be very expensive for the people of the region.

[Reporter] I would like to refer to the fact that we have witnessed an increase in [the price of] oil recently; we should, therefore, see an improvement in our country's economy soon. How do you assess our economy at this moment, and is the increase in the price of oil important in connection with this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What has happened so far—of course, we had an increase in oil revenue in these two, three months, and if the price remains high, as it is at present, it can have a serious effect on our economy. If it changes, the amount of foreign exchange which we have gained in the meantime will make up for some of the shortfall which we had this year—because at the beginning of the year we were selling oil at a cheap price; in the first five months of the year [the Iranian year begins 21 March], oil had become very cheap; we had shortfalls. Even if oil goes back to the normal price, because of the extra amount gained, we will be within our plan. In other words, it is certain that it will meet the requirements of our plan, so far; if it remains high for a long time, I think we can add new projects to our plan.

[Reporter] Your Eminence has persistently spoken of the country's independence being reliant on the greatest possible increase in production by the country's factories. Now, more than a year after the declaration of new economic policies, what is your assessment of the quality and quantity of our production?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Both quality and quantity are improving. that is to say, some people did not believe that our factories would so quickly attain their current state, because they said that as a result of long-term shortages in the past, they would need some time to take on new forces, to import spare parts, to prepare; but it turned out otherwise. Approximately, more than 90 per cent of factories are now operating at the planned capacity and their products are appearing on the market. We are not controlling their distribution, so that they may be encouraged and improve their situation. They are improving their liquidity situation, because they are generally in debt. They are improving their situation with regard to debts. They have begun improving quality because we have asked them to export. Exports are not possible with low quality because they must compete in the world. They can [only] compete with good products. Not only is quality improving, but quantity, too, is at a good level, and I think it will get even better daily. [passage omitted]

Urges ICO Intervention

LD0311171990 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said on Saturday that the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] should feel dutybound to intervene in the Iraq-Kuwait crisis now that it is threatening the Muslim world and dividing Islamic states.

He told visiting OIC Secretary-General Hamid Algabid, "the OIC has not performed its duties as it should in dealing with acute problems of Muslim states." To elaborate his point, Hojjat ol-Eslam took up the Kashmir crisis and other problems facing Muslims around the globe especially in Palestine, Afghanistan and Lebanon, and said "the feeling should be born in Muslims that the Organization (OIC) is defending their righteous Islamic ideals."

"The duty of OIC requires it not to be influenced by others but to act in a way that Muslim states will be convinced against exploiting it as an exclusive rostrum, so that the organisation itself can act independently and judge impartially." The president also expressed regret over OIC's past approach to the Iraqi war, saying "we expected the organization, would have adopted a more fair attitude in order to settle the conflict."

The role of the OIC should be Islamic without the least shades of nationalism or the like, so that the 45-member organisation can impress all countries and peoples of various colours and languages, Rafsanjani said. Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani continued that at present Muslims in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and India needed help and therefore such an organization (OIC) should make its presence felt among governments and peoples.

In order to help materialize this goal, the Islamic Republic will play a more serious role and would increase its support for the OIC, he added. Rafsanjani said the revolution in Iran is "wholly an Islamic revolution" and "since the goal of our revolution is to strengthen the rule of Islam, for this reason we attach importance to such activities."

He also quoted the leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, as advocating for the strengthening of bonds between the Islamic schools of thoughts, and called for OIC's active cooperation in this regard. Algabid was pleased with his visit to Tehran and acquaintance with the achievements of the Islamic Revolution and said he was keen to know about the Islamic

Republic's viewpoints and decisions concerning the numerous crises in the Muslim world.

Receives Malagasy Foreign Minister

LD3110222490 Tehran Domestic Service Persian 2030 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The foreign affairs minister of Madagascar submitted a message from his country's president to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president. He stressed the two countries' common political stances in most cases, in particular on the Persian Gulf crisis, and called for the expansion of Madagascar's political, economic, and cultural ties with Iran, especially in oil related industries.

In reply Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced his concern over uncompromising stances and an outbreak of war in the region, and said: As before, we will continue our efforts toward the peaceful solution of the crisis in the region, and toward stopping the outbreak of war. The president added: We would like to see the expansion of bilateral relations in fields which serve the two countries' interests.

Velayati Confers With Malagasy Foreign Minister

LD3110134590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Bemananjara, the foreign affairs minister of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, who arrived in Tehran last night at the head of a political delegation, held his first round of talks this afternoon with Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign affairs minister.

In connection with the region's crisis, the foreign affairs minister of Madagascar said: We condemned the Iraqi military invasion of Kuwait, and believe that it is against international norms. He added: Iran plays a significant role in the Persian Gulf; we believe that the countries of the region should propose a solution to end the crisis, and that Western countries should not exploit the situation and turn the region into their military warehouse.

Referring to the savage crimes of the Zionist regime in the occupied territories, and to the indiscriminate killings of Palestinian Muslims, the foreign affairs minister of Madagascar stressed: We, the countries of the Third World, should cooperate, hand in hand.

Then Mr. Velayati, welcoming friendly ties with the revolutionary country of Madagascar—and referring to the fact that both countries have made efforts toward expansion of relations and that those efforts are gradually reaching fruition—said: Our cooperation is multilateral, and we place much importance on the roie Madagascar plays in the political and military balance in the Indian Ocean.

On the Persian Gulf crisis, Mr. Velayati said: We are both against the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the presence of alien forces in the Persian Gulf. We stress that the countries of the region should cooperate to safeguard regional stability.

Velayati, Habibi Leave for Damascus Visit

LD0311112490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] First Vice President Habibi, accompanied by Foreign Minister Velayati, left for Damascus this morning for a formal visit. He was seen off by a number of ministers, vice presidents, presidential advisors, and military and security officials.

Before leaving, Habibi said about the aim of the trip:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. During His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad's trip to Iran, it was agreed that a high-ranking committee should be set up comprising first vice presidents and foreign ministers of the two countries in order to supervise the political, economic, and social ties between our two countries, which are to be expanded.

Considering the past and present developments in the region it was agreed that the two countries should be constantly in touch with each other's problems and views. It was also agreed that the committee should meet about once a month.

In fact this is by way of the first session of the committee that is to take place in Syria following the preliminary session in Tehran. At the session the course of action and guidelines are to be determined and developments in the period between the two trips are to be reviewed. Naturally these issues concern the Persian Gulf crisis and the regional developments. [end recording]

Commentary Considers Resumption of UK Ties

LD0311235290 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] After remaining severed for 19 months, diplomatic ties between Tehran and London were resumed yesterday morning with the hoisting of the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the top of its embassy building in the British capital. Mr. Shamsoddin Khareghani, who was earlier Iran's ambassador in (?Ghana) is the head of the four-member diplomatic mission in London. According to the informed sources at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the four-member team dispatched from Tehran will continue to [word indistinct] and [word indistinct] of improvements in Tehran-London ties, and their elevation to ambassadorial level. In the course of the flag-hoisting ceremony at the Iranian embassy premises in London, yesterday, Mr. Shamsoddin Khareghani read out a statement in which he lauded the Pakistani ambassador's efforts during the past several months when he was responsible for protecting the interests of the Islamic Republic in Britain.

In a reference to a previous record of Irano-British diplomatic ties, and noting that these relations have experienced a series of fluctuations, Mr. Khareghani expressed hope for the observance of reciprocal respect in the renewed diplomatic ties between Tehran and London. He stressed that he has come to London as his country's charge d'affaires, and will endeavour to [word indistinct] the current problems between the two countries. It must be pointed out that the news of the resumption of diplomatic ties between Iran and Britain, (?which) were broken nine months ago, follows their foreign ministers' meeting in New York. The meeting took place during the United Nations' General Assembly session in New York last September.

During the past three years, a major issue that came in the way of the Iranian officials' meeting with their British counterparts was the partial attitude of London towards the anti-Islamic events of political and cultural nature, including the publication of the sacrilegious book *The Satanic Verses*. On 8 March 1989, the Islamic Republic of Iran, due to the inattention of the London officials to Iran's warning, severed its diplomatic ties with Britian, and made their resumption subject to a basic change in that country's unilateral stance. After a 19-month stalemate, finally, on 2 August, the British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, in a new move, while expressing (?solemn) respect of its government for Islam, confirmed the nonintervention of its country in the publication of the book, *The Satanic Verses*. He reiterated that Britain has no inclination whatsoever to have any conflict with Islam or with the government and the people of Iran.

In less than one week after the comments of this British government official, Iran's national Security Council declared that the terms for the resumption of diplomatic ties were duly fulfilled, and assigned the task of the renewel of these relations, to the Foreign Ministry.

Whilst the diplomatic ties between Tehran and London have now been reestablished, after a lapse of 19 months, according to some observers the existence of tension in some (?scattered) cases seems to be quite natural. Therefore, in order to prevent (?negative) impacts of such tensions, settlement of controversial issues in bilateral ties should be given top priority. These include the undetermined fate of Iranian Muslim students in London, especially the nonrelease of Mehrdad Kokabi, the [word indistinct] student who was jailed in London without any (?plausible) reason.

*Investigation Into Prophet's Foundation Resumes

91AS0083W London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] The trial of Seyyed 'Ali Musavi-Qomi, supervisor of the Nabovat Foundation, which has been suspended twice with a death sentence for corruption on the earth, began again last week.

Seyyed 'Ali Musavi-Qomi, supervisor of the Nabovat Foundation, who was able to pocket hundreds of millions of rials in a short time through trickery and influence in the regime's judiciary under Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, was arrested in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] after a complaint by the Ministry of Finance, and his case was taken to court. In a noisy trial, Branch 146 of Tehran Penal Court One sentenced Seyyed 'Ali Musavi to death for undermining the nation's economic system, fraud, corruption, and illicit relations.

During the sessions of this court many issues were raised related to the relations between Seyyed 'Ali Musavi-Qomi and Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, and it became clear that with a telephone call to Musavi-Ardabili he could get anyone out of prison.

The activities of the supervisor of the Nabovat Foundation reached the point that he even wanted to establish a university.

The verdict issued by the Tehran Penal Court was sent to the Supreme Court for confirmation, but Musavi-Ardabili, who was chief justice of the Supreme Court, sent the file back to the court and said that the accused was not considered corrupt on the earth.

Branch 146 of the Tehran Penal Court reviewed Musavi-Qomi's case and announced under Article 88 of the Penalties Law, the person in question was corrupt and that the Restrictions and Punishments Law must be applied to him. Once again the national Supreme Court did not accept this verdict, and referred the case for review to another branch, Branch 147 of the Tehran Penal Court One. That court is now hearing this case.

At the Wednesday 18 Mehr (10 October) session, the chief justice ordered that KEYHAN's correspondent be barred from the public trial. In answer to the protest from KEYHAN's correspondent, he said he would not allow him into the court because of the irrelevant statements KEYHAN has made about this case.

The trial of the case of the supervisor of the Nabovat Foundation is occurring at a time when his primary supporter, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, is hospitalized in Qom with heart trouble.

*Value of Trade With USSR Doubled

91AS0083Q London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] This year the Soviet Union and the Islamic Republic have increased the value of their trade, and based on estimates by Soviet commercial officials, it is expected that by the end of the current year the value of these exchanges will reach $600 million. Early last week the Soviet ambassador in Tehran took part in the opening ceremonies for this country's booth in the Tehran International Exposition, and announced that the volume of commercial exchanges between Tehran and Moscow has doubled so far this year compared to last year.

The Soviet ambassador said: The long-term treaty of commercial, economic, technical, and academic cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Islamic Republic to the year 2000 AD, signed by the leaders of the two countries, will bring significant expansion of cooperation between the two countries in the areas of new industrial projects and an increase in the volume of commercial exchanges.

In his talk, the Soviet ambassador in Tehran noted that the long-term Soviet deal to buy Iran's natural gas in exchange for equipment, machinery, and services, based on the agreement signed between the two countries, is especially important. He added: On this basis, 19 large industrial projects in industry, energy, electricity, gas, machine manufacture, and shipping will be carried out in Iran.

Concurrent with the opening of the Soviet booth at the Tehran International Exposition, after visiting with Simonov, the Soviet deputy energy minister for electricity and energy, the Islamic Republic's minister of energy announced that construction operations for the Qezqel'ehsi and Khoda Afarin dam, as a model project, can open a new chapter in expanding cooperation between the two neighbor countries in the area of dam and power plant construction, and it also created the possibility for future treaties.

The Islamic Republic's minister of energy told reporters that Simonov's trip to Tehran and his assistance will expedite the construction of jointly-built dams, as well as the reconstruction of Unit Two of the Ramin Power Plant, which was damaged in the war.

Pakistan

National Assembly Prepares for Transfer of Power

6 Nov Ceremony Set

BK0311112690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has said that the transfer of power in the country will be smooth and dignified. A formal ceremony for the same is fixed for Tuesday [6 November]. Talking to newsmen informally in the Parliament House today during the luncheon for the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] parliamentary party, the prime minister said the foremost task before his government was to hold free and fair elections and the same had been satisfactorily accomplished. About the general law and order condition, he said it was fairly normal and fully under control.

Army Chief Applauds Elections

BK0211173290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg has congratulated Chief Election Commissioner Justice Naimuddin for holding fair and peaceful elections to the National and Provincial Assemblies. In a letter to the chief election commissioner, the Army chief said the elections are the basis for a democratic process, and fair elections are an important step toward the setting up of a just and democratic system in the country.

Bhutto's PDA To Form Opposition

BK0311012190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1801 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Nov 2 (AFP)—Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's defeated Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA) decided Friday [2 November] to sit in opposition in the new parliament under protest.

"Despite massive electoral fraud against democracy and the people of Pakistan, the PDA will not stay away from the parliament for the time being," the alliance's Secretary General Khurshid Mehmud Kasuri said.

The decision was taken in a meeting of all PDA candidates in last week's elections for the 217-member National Assembly, which is to open in nearby Islamabad on Saturday. Of the 184 PDA candidates in the October 24 polls, only 45 were returned against 105 from the rival Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI).

Mr. Kasuri said the PDA deputies would take their oaths under protest.

The four-party alliance led by Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) "reserves the right to resign from or boycott the national and provincial assemblies if the situation so warranted at a future date," he added.

"At this stage when the political institutions stood grotesquely deformed, an enormous challenge lies on the PDA to prevent the situation from further deteriorating," he said, adding that attending parliament was "a lesser evil." He said the decision against a political movement was based on previous experience and recalled that agitation against election rigging by a former PPP government in 1977 had led to army intervention.

Mr. Kasuri said the meeting, chaired by Ms. Bhutto, believed that a largely unrepresentative assembly could not grapple with the complex challenges facing the nation. "It will increase the burden on common man," he added.

Ms. Bhutto has questioned the election results, accusing President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the state machinery of engaging in massive fraud and vote-rigging.

Her husband Asif Zardari, elected from a Karachi constituency while in police custody on criminal charges, has obtained permission to attend the opening parliamentary session, sources close to the PPP said. He is to arrive late Sunday with a police escort in the capital Islamabad, they added.

In a letter made public Friday by the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, Army Chief General

Mirza Aslam Beg complimented the chief election commissioner, Justice Naimuddin, "for maintaining the tradition of equity and impartiality of his high office" in the latest polls.

Bhutto Supporters Refuse Oath

BK0311060790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0550 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 3 (AFP)—Former Premier Benazir Bhutto's supporters refused to be sworn in Saturday [3 November] to Pakistan's new parliament because her MP husband was not freed from jail in time to attend.

The People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) deputies walked out of the chamber behind Ms. Bhutto, protesting that the absence of Asif Zardari was a "violation of his parliamentary privileges."

Mr. Zardari, who was elected to parliament from Karachi in his political debut, has been imprisoned since October 10 on charges of fraud and involvement in kidnapping.

A special court on Thursday [1 November] ordered him freed to attend the opening session of the new National Assembly, but he had not appeared in Islamabad early Saturday.

Interior Minister Zahid Sarfaz said Mr. Zardari would be able to take the oath of office Sunday, but that did not prevent the walkout by the PDA, which was dealt an overwhelming defeat in Pakistan's October 24 polls.

The elections were called after President Ghulam Ishaq Khan removed Ms. Bhutto from office August 6 on charges of corruption and abuse of power.

Assembly Meets Amid PDA Walkout

BK0311083490 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] The newly elected National Assembly held its inaugural meeting in Islamabad this morning. The newly elected members took their oath as a token of their formal assumption of membership of the house. The speaker of the former National Assembly, Malik Mairaj Khalid, who chaired the session, administered collective oath to the members. A total of 125 members took their oath. Thereafter, the members individually signed the roll of members placed at the rostrum.

The PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] members who came to the house, however, staged a walkout as a protest against what they alleged obstruction by the government in the way of one of their newly elected members, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, from coming to Islamabad to take his oath. Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Syed Zafar Ali Shah, in their points of order, objected to the attitude of the Sindh government toward PDA members and described it as infringement of their privilege. The caretaker justice minister, Chaudhary Amir Hussain; and Interior Minister Mian Zahid Sarfraz pointed out that the difficulties encountered by a member should have been brought to the notice of either the speaker or chief minister of Sindh Province. They, however, assured that Mr. Asif Ali Zardari will be provided every facility to come to the house tomorrow to take his oath.

The house has now adjourned to meet tomorrow afternoon at 1500. In tomorrow's session, the National Assembly is expected to elect speaker and the deputy speaker. Nomination papers for the offices of the speaker and the deputy speaker will be received till 1200 tomorrow. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be held at 1500.

Bhutto Demands Emergency Withdrawal

BK0311084590 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] The PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] leader and the cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, Benazir Bhutto Sahibah, has said they noted the decision of the speaker and the assurance given by the caretaker interior minister in the house [National Assembly] today to ensure that Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, will be flown to the house tomorrow for taking his oath. She was talking to newsmen at the Parliament House today.

Replying to a question, Benazir Bhutto Sahibah demanded the withdrawal of emergency.

Bhutto's Party Members Take Oath

BK0411114890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] The National Assembly resumed its session in Islamabad this afternoon with the speaker of the former National Assembly, Malik Mairaj Khalid, in the chair. The house is expected to elect the speaker and the deputy speaker in today's sitting. A number of newly elected members, including those of the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance], took oath as a token of their formal assumption of membership of the house.

Speaker Elected; Premier on 6 Nov

BK0411165490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Mr. Gauher Ayub Khan of IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] was elected as the new speaker of the National Assembly in Islamabad this evening. He received 146 votes as against 47 received by Syed Zafar Ali Shah of PDA [People's Democratic Alliance]. Two votes were declared invalid. Later, [outgoing speaker] Malik Mairaj Khalid administered the oath of office to the new speaker. Haji Mohammad Khokar of IJI has been elected deputy speaker of the National Assembly. He got 143 votes, while his opponent Sardar Fateh Muhammad Mohammad Hasni of PDA secured 47 votes. One vote was declared invalid. Later, Mr. Gauher Ayub Khan administered oath of office to the new deputy speaker.

Welcoming the new speaker, the caretaker prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, assured him of full cooperation in conducting the proceedings. He was confident that he will fulfill (?overall) responsibilities of speakership which involves protection of the rights of people and keeping a balance in the conduct of proceedings. He hoped that Mr. Gauher Ayub Khan will have no difficulties in successfully fulfilling his responsibility.

Leader of the opposition, Benazir Bhutto Sahiba, also assured the new speaker full cooperation if he kept up the traditions of maintaining even-handedness, fairness and opportunity of full expression to the both sides of the house. She hoped that the new speaker would successfully face the challenge of pursuing these policies which would ensure a free and liberal government in the country.

The new speaker, Mr. Gauher Ayub Khan, in his speech said it will be his effort to maintain fairness and even-handedness in the proceedings, bring about friendly atmosphere and free expresssion so that the new house fulfils the expectations of the nation. He urged both sides to forget acrimony generated by the election and to set about the task of nation-building afresh. He pointed out that it was for the first time in the nation's history that a peaceful transfer of power was taking place. The days were over when chief executive had to be exiled or imprisoned.

Earlier, the prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, and the leader of the opposition, Benazir Bhutto Sahiba, paid rich tributes to the outgoing speaker, Malik Mairaj Khalid for his unparalleled role in ensuring fairness in the proceedings of the house, protecting the rights and previleges of members and maintaining the dignity of the house at a difficult juncture in the nation's history. [passage omitted]

The president has summoned the National Assembly to meet on Tuesday [6 November] at 0800 to ascertain who commands the confidence of the majority of the members of the National Assembly. Radio Pakistan's parliamentary representative says the proceedings of the house on Tuesday will be without debate and any other business. Nominations on the prescribed forms duly proposed and seconded can be delivered to the secretary of the National Assembly by 1400 tomorrow.

Sharif Wants 'Democratic Traditions'

BK0311085090 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] The leader of the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] parliamentary party, Mian Nawaz Sharif, has said that the IJI government wanted to set long-lasting, refined, and positive democratic traditions both inside and outside the house. In a brief chat with newsmen at the Parliament House today after the oath-taking ceremony, he said there should be no doubt about the commitments of the prospective government to maintain decorum and decency as was befitting of a true democratic polity.

Bhutto Pledges 'Constructive Role'

BK0511004790 Hong Kong AFP in English 2003 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Karachi, Nov 4 (AFP)—Former Premier Benazir Bhutto pledged Sunday to play a constructive role as opposition leader in Pakistan's newly elected National Assembly, despite repeating charges that elections last month were rigged.

Ms. Bhutto's People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) was trounced in the general elections by the conservative Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) led by Punjab industrialist Nawaz Sharif.

"We have accepted to play a constructive role of opposition in the assembly in the best interest of democracy," Ms. Bhutto told reporters here Sunday [4 November] after arriving in her home province of Sindh from Islamabad.

"It is not a pleasant job in the house which has been largely created through massive rigging," she said.

"I believe that we have to take a stand now against such injustices to the people of Pakistan who have been cheated in their right of franchise through rigging," the former premier added.

Ms. Bhutto demanded investigations into what she called "false allegations" against her and her party and underlined that she required relief.

"If we are not provided relief then we would consider it a constitutional dictatorship," she said.

Ms. Bhutto said "we have not resorted to agitational politics in the best interest of the country and democracy although people were enraged over the massive rigging and subversion of their will."

"The people have only the right to franchise and if that is also subverted then no one will have faith in democracy and the country would suffer," she said.

Ms. Bhutto will return to Islamabad on Monday to participate in Tuesday's proceedings of the National Assembly, which is to elect the new prime minister. The IJI has nominated Mr. Sharif for the post.

Paper Outlines Tasks Before Sharif

BK0411115990 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Nov 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Enter the New Prime Minister"]

[Text] It is not often that power in Pakistan has changed hands peacefully and constitutionally. The IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] is forming the government at the Centre and its head, Mian Nawaz Sharif, is assuming the office of Prime Minister not because of any extraneous factors but because the IJI has won a victory at the polls. It is the first time since Pakistan came into being that someone from the Muslim League is becoming Prime

Minister after winning a general election. Barring Liaquat Ali Khan, other Muslim League Prime Ministers owed their elevation to other factors—palace intrigues or, in the case of Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, nomination at the hands of an authoritarian ruler. These are significant departures. The orderly holding of elections (charges of rigging by the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] notwithstanding) points to the growing stability of the political process in the country. The apotheosis of the IJI, or its major component the Muslim League, signifies a shift to the right in Pakistani politics, thus reversing the trend that came to the fore in the 1970 elections. These elections, therefore, are as much of a watershed as those twenty years ago which swept the PPP to power.

That Mian Nawaz Sharif is the hero of the moment is no accident: He came into political prominence during the Zia regime. He was also one of the moving spirits behind the formation of the IJI in 1988 and the architect of the IJI's victory in Punjab in the just concluded election. If he was considered a leader of provincial stature then, he came into the public eye as an alternative to the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leadership when he led the opposition to the Bhutto government. In the event, the IJI's sweeping victory in Punjab automatically turned Mian Nawaz Sharif into the front runner for the Prime Ministership. There was some hesitation on this score in the first few days after the elections when it was whispered in some quarters that the situation in Sindh called for the election of a Sindhi Prime Minister. But these considerations, which really amounted to playing dice with the verdict of the electorate were quickly brushed aside when all the chiefs of the IJI (their number not being small) came out in support of Mian Nawaz Sharif.

There is however, nothing very original in the statement that the new Prime Minister has his job cut out for him. The economic situation is bad and could easily become worse if there is a further increase in oil prices. The caretaker government avoided raising the price of petrol out of political considerations. This situation will have to be reviewed and some pretty unpopular decisions taken very soon. On the foreign policy front, there is the unsettled question of Afghanistan and the implications of continuing tension in Kashmir. There is also the question of relations with America and the suspension of U.S. aid. These matters have to be attended to urgently. How well equipped will the new government be to handle them? Its one obvious weakness stems from the incongruity of the elements that are likely to go into its composition. Satisfying all of them and taking all of them together will call for a rare degree of statesmanship. Strong and judicious leadership will go a long way to overcome this problem. But it goes without saying that pandering to the lowest common denominator, whenever a crisis in the alliance erupts, will cut into the effectivenes of the new government. There need not be too many fears on this score, however. The IJI leadership has displayed an uncanny knack for alliance-building. This experience should stand it in good stead in the days ahead.

Even so, a change of government in the country can prove meaningful for ordinary people only if there is a visible and quick improvement in the things that matter to most of them: law and order, the provision of justice and the responsiveness of the administration. For too long a time has the business of government in this country stood for the distribution of spoils amongst a particular class of people. Each government coming to Islamabad has meant a new set of parasites feeding upon the resources of the state. The IJI is well paced to put an end to this state of affairs. Its huge majority in the National Assembly should obviate the necessity of acceding to all the legitimate and illegitimate requests of the new MNAs [Members of National Assembly]. Sifarish [recommendation] and jobbery have eaten into the vitals of the nation. It is time merit and justice were allowed to stage a comeback. In this connection, the New Prime Minister must be able to distinguish between running a province and running the country. The second of these jobs calls for a breadth of vision and a catholic approach to issues—qualities sometimes lost in the hurly-burly of local politices. All the same, the new government will not have much of a sense of direction unless it is able to chart an agenda for itself.

From the IJI leadership the people have so far heard vague promises of this and that. But there is no concrete programme of what the government intends to do. Serious as this shortcoming is, the IJI should be able to overcome it because there is no dearth of able and talented people in its ranks. What is equally improtant, it is also in a good position to open a new chapter in national politics. The people of Pakistan have turned their backs on the ghosts of the past. The least that the political leadership of the country can do is to follow their example. Mian Nawaz Sharif can set the lead in this direction by being the Prime Minister of not just the IJI but the whole of Pakistan. There is no denying the fact that he has a great opportunity before him. It now remains to be seen how he measures up to it.

IJI, MQM To Form Sindh Coalition Government

BK0211171990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] has announced its support to Caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh Jam Sadiq Ali in Sindh Assembly. A formal meeting of the MPA's [members of provincial assembly] belonging to MQM, IJI [Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad], SNA [Sindh National Alliance], and independent groups will be held tomorrow evening to elect Jam Sadiq Ali as the parliamentary leader. This was stated at a news conference jointly addressed by the caretaker chief minister of Sindh, Jam Sadiq Ali, and MQM Chief Mr. Altaf Hussain. The Sindh chief minister said that he is thankful to the MQM leadership for their support and he assured that he will discharge his duties dutifully. It will be his endeavor to remove the misunderstandings created by the former government among various sections of the population and create a sense of brotherhood.

In reply to a question, he said that he will form coalition government with MQM in the province.

The MQM leader, Mr. Altaf Hussain, said that although his party has 28 members in the house, they have decided to support Jam Sadiq as a gesture of goodwill. The MQM is not against any section of the population.

To another question, he said they will have an agreement with IJI for the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh.

IJI, ANP Coalition Government in NWFP

BK0311153890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] The Islamic Democratic Alliance and the Awami National Party have reached an agreement to form a coalition government in the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] to ensure rapid development of the province and the welfare and well-being of the people. This was stated by NWFP Chief Minister Mir Afzal Khan at a news conference in Peshawar this afternoon. He said the details of the agreement will be released later. The chief minister said the new government will give top priority to accelerating the pace of industrial development, controlling the problem of unemployment, and providing justice to all without any discrimination on political grounds.

Awami National Party's parliamentary leader Begum Nasim Wali Khan told the newsmen that they had agreed to form a coalition government for ensuring rapid development of the province. She added that they would maintain their alliance in the larger interest of the province.

'Millions' Condemn Desecration of Ayodhya Mosque

BK0211172990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Desecration of the Babri Masjid [Mosque] in Ayodhya at the hands of Hindu extremists was strongly condemned today at Juma [Friday] congregations by millions of the faithful throughout Pakistan. Khatibs and ulema [Islamic scholars] strongly urged the Muslim ummah [community] to take a serious notice of this dastardly act and pressure the Indian Government to take necessary measures to avoid such incidents. People belonging to various walks of life obseved Save Babri Masjid Day today on the appeal of various religious and political organizations. Peaceful demonstrations were held in different parts of the country to express strong resentment and indignation against the sacrilege of the Masjid by Hindu extremists.

Bomb Explodes at Hindu Temple in Karachi

BK0311152790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1451 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Karachi, Nov 3 (AFP)—A bomb exploded here and damaged a Hindu temple Saturday [3 November] as demonstrations continued nationwide against Hindu fundamentalists who stormed a mosque this past week in India, police said.

The early morning explosion also damaged items inside the temple, but no casualties were reported, police said.

People in Pakistan, which is 95 percent Moslem, have reacted angrily to a Hindu assault on a mosque in Ayodhya, in India's Uttar Pradesh state, built by 16th century mogul emperor Zaheer Uddin Babar.

Claiming the site to be the birth place of their Lord Rama, thousands of Hindus tried to demolish the Babri mosque Tuesday [30 October] and again on Friday [2 November], igniting religious violence in India.

In Karachi police prevented hundreds of supporters of former Premier Benazir Bhutto from entering the Indian consulate to protest the desecration of the mosque and the killings of Moslems in several Indian cities, witnesses said.

Security was increased in the city and police sealed roads leading to the consulate, witnesses said. Police said some protestors were rounded up, but gave no figures.

Earlier they staged a protest rally in the city centre.

Condemning the attack on the Babri mosque, they also criticised the interim government's alleged silence on the killings of the Moslems in India.

Hindu Temples Under Attack; One Killed

BK0411142490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1406 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Nov 4 (AFP)—Heavy police contingents guarded Hindu temples here after attacks by Moslems protesting the Hindu violence against a 16th century mosque in India left at least one Hindu dead, witnesses said.

One temple was damaged Saturday [3 November] by an explosive device lobbed by some unidentified men and a Hindu cobbler was shot dead in Hyderabad, 150 kilometeres (90 miles) north of here, they said.

Security forces in Hyderabad foiled several attempts by angry groups to damage Hindu temples in the city, they said.

In Islamabad, a Hindu deputy expressed concern in the lower house of the Pakistani parliament over the "threat" to the minority Hindu community.

Bhagwan Das demanded immediate debate on the situation in Sindh Province, home of most of the Hindus who constitute roughly two per cent of the country's 110 million population.

He said Hindus had not encountered such a situation in the last 42 years.

The speaker responded that the issue could be discussed by the house after it was formally brought on the agenda.

The Sindh caretaker chief minister, Jam Sadiq Ali, condemned the attacks and urged Moslems to protect the minorities.

Khan, UN Representative Discuss Afghanistan

BK0311151190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] The personal representative of the UN secretary general on Afghanistan, Mr. Bevon Sevan, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at Aiwan-i-Sadr [presidential palace] in Islamabad today. They discussed matters relating to the Afghanistan issue. The president reiterated Pakistan's commitment to a political solution of the issue acceptable to the people of Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka

Communique Reviews Operations Against LTTE

BK0111113590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] The security forces have further consolidated their positions in Jaffna Peninsula during the last 24 hours ending at 1200 yesterday. The forces conducting clearing operations in the area south of Kadduwan killed seven LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists and recovered their weapons. Terrorists' sniper fire killed one soldier in the Veeramankaman area. A Defense Ministry communique says during search operations in the Manmunai area in the Batticaloa District two soldiers died and three were injured when the terrorists activated a landmine in this incident. Three civilians who were also injured were evacuated to Colombo. Six terrorists were killed in this encounter.

The security forces fired upon a group of LTTE terrorists moving in a tractor toward Mankulam in the vavuniya District. Four terrorists were killed in this encounter. It is reported that many others were seriously wounded.

According to the communique, the police conducted a search operation in the Eluwankulam area in the Puttalam District. Two Sterling machine guns, several shotguns, grenades, and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered.

Thousands of Muslims, who have been chased out of the Mannar District by the LTTE terrorists having looted their houses, are now moving into Puttalam, Anuradhapura, and Vavuniya Districts. It is reported that nearly 15,000 refugees are now in the refugee camps in the Kalpitiya area alone. The government agent of Puttalam and the assistant government agent of Kalpitiya are making arrangements to provide food and accomodation to these refugees. The commissioner general of essential services has dispatched emergency food and medical supplies to Puttalam. Several nongovernmental organizations have already moved into this district with relief supplies.

LTTE Claims Army Camp Stormed, 10 Killed

BK0211063490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0603 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Colombo, Nov 2 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's most powerful rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has said its commandos stormed an army camp in northern Sri Lanka, killed 10 soldiers and returned to base with three losses.

In a statement received here late Thursday from the group's London office, the LTTE said the sudden attack was launched early Thursday on the army camp in Manalaru area in Mullaitivu district.

"This camp served the Sri Lankan Government to protect the Sinhalese settlement in the area," the LTTE said, adding 10 soldiers and three guerrillas including a top rebel military leader, Major Shankar, were killed in the fighting.

Manalaru is the Tamil name for the controversial Weli Oya area where Tamil groups claim Colombo set up several colonies for majority Sinhalese villagers under a colonisation scheme in 1984.

The Weli Oya area runs through the eastern Trincomalee district to the Mullaitivu border. Both Trincomalee and Mullaitivu form part of the island's predominantly Tamil northeast.

The guerrillas operating from bases located in thick jungles in Mullaitivu and Trincomalee districts have time and again raided Sinhalese villages in Weli Oya which Tamils claim is part of the traditional Tamil land in the northeast.

"After the successful raid, the LTTE commandos demolished the army camp by explosives and returned to their base," the guerrillas said.

The rest of the troops in the camp fled to adjoining jungles, the statement said, adding LTTE fighters seized several weapons including Chinese mortars, AK-47 automatic rifles and light machine guns.

Military officials here denied the attack but said the rebels were probably referring to an attack early Thursday on a Sinhalese village in Weli Oya in which 10 civilians, six army soldiers and two tigers were killed.

Six other troops were injured when the rebels stormed the army guard point at Helambagaswewa village in Weli Oya near Trincomalee district.

The LTTE also said its cadres Thursday killed three Sinhalese homeguards during a fierce gun battle in Aluth Oya in Trincomalee district.

"In the eastern province the Sri Lankan government has created para-military forces called homeguards and allowed them to function independently," the statement said, adding the homeguards had been terrorising the Tamils.

Colombo provided weapons and trained hundreds of Sinhalese and Moslem villagers as homeguards after increased rebel attacks on remote areas in the eastern province since June 11 when the tigers renewed their seccessionist war.

But the military spokesman said those killed at Aluth Oya were three Sinhalese civilians. The LTTE said Colombo has been "portraying the homeguards slain by the LTTE as innocent Sinhalese civilians."

In operations in eastern Batticaloa, security forces shot dead a LTTE guerrilla in Meenachchiwatte and seized six barrels of petrol hidden inside a nearby cellar, the spokesman said.

More than 4,500 people including hundreds of non-combatants are reported to have died in fighting between government troops and the LTTE since June.

Wijeratne Views Mannar Anti-LTTE Operations

BK0211121290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan forces landed in the Mannar Island yesterday. Air, sea, and land operations are now being conducted to clear the island of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists. This was stated by Minister of Plantation Industries and State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne yesterday. He was addressing a news conference at the Cabinet office in Colombo to brief the newsmen on the present situation in the war-stricken areas in the country.

The minister said that he had come to understand that 2,000 Muslim men, women, and children were lined up by the terrorists and sent today to Vavuniya by buses. This means that the terrorists had cleared Jaffna of Muslims. Mr. Wijeratne said, as soon as the Mannar Island was cleared of terrorists and made secure, the Muslims will be transferred back to their homes. However, at present, they are refugees in Anuradhapaura, Kalpitiya, and Puttalam. They had become refugees as a result of the terrorist intimidation and are now being looked after by the government. The number of Muslim refugees totals to about 25,000. The forces did not move to the Mannar Island quickly because the Muslim citizens, too, would have been killed. As such, they had to buy time for the Muslims to move out. Now that a vast majority has moved out, the forces have gone to the Mannar Island and operations have been started. The Muslims had also made a request not to start any operations until they had left the area.

Mr. Wijeratne referred to an incident which occurred in the early hours of yesterday at Weli Oya. Here, the terrorists had come to a village called Halabedawa and killed 10 civilians and five soldiers. The terrorists had been attacked and reinforcements rushed to deal with the situation.

Referring to his visit to Silavatturai last Saturday, Mr. Wijeratne said that during the discussion he had with the refugees who had come there from Mannar, it was made known that the terrorists had relieved them of their gold jewelry and other valuable personal belongings and were asked to quit the Mannar Island. Responding to a question why the terrorists were doing this type of harassment, Mr. Wijeratne said that when the 2,000 Muslims were lined up, they were told by the terrorists that they wanted to kill them, but were not doing so. But, the minister said that the refugees whom he had met had told him that they had been sent away from the Mannar Island because some of the Muslim leaders wanted a separate Muslim council and also [word indistinct] on Mannar to that council in the Eastern Province. Those refugees had also requested the minister to tell those leaders not to involve them in the Muslim council they propose, as they wish to live peacefully in that part of the country. Mr. Wijeratne said that he had asked them to write to the president on these lines because the president would be able to tell the Muslim leaders, who wanted a Muslim council, that they were placing the other Muslims of this country in difficulty.

Responding to another question, Mr. Wijeratne said that the Sri Lanka Navy assisted the Muslims of the Mannar Island to move out before the operations started yesterday.

Replying to a question about minister's meeting with Indian High Commissioner, Mr. Wijeratne pointed out that his discussions with the high commissioner were based on improving bilateral trade. This was because trade could develop good relations and friendship.